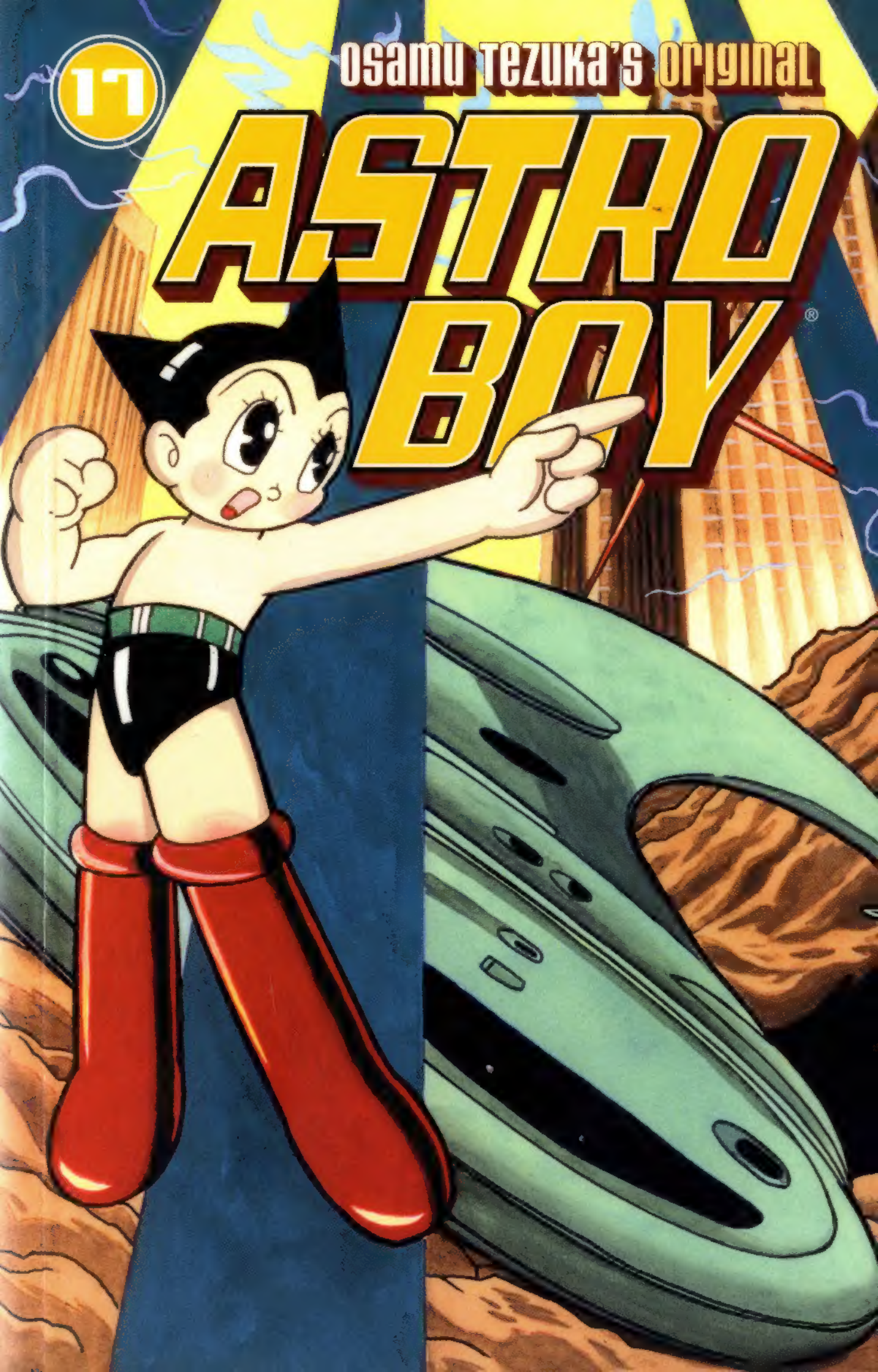
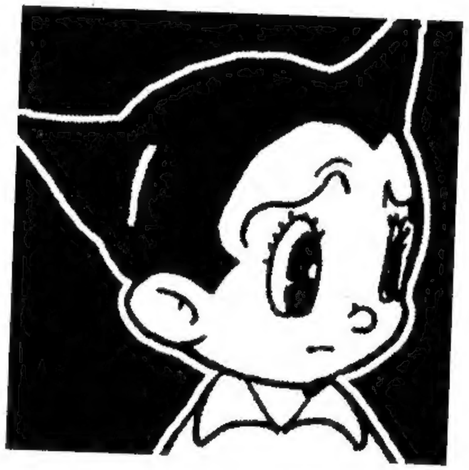
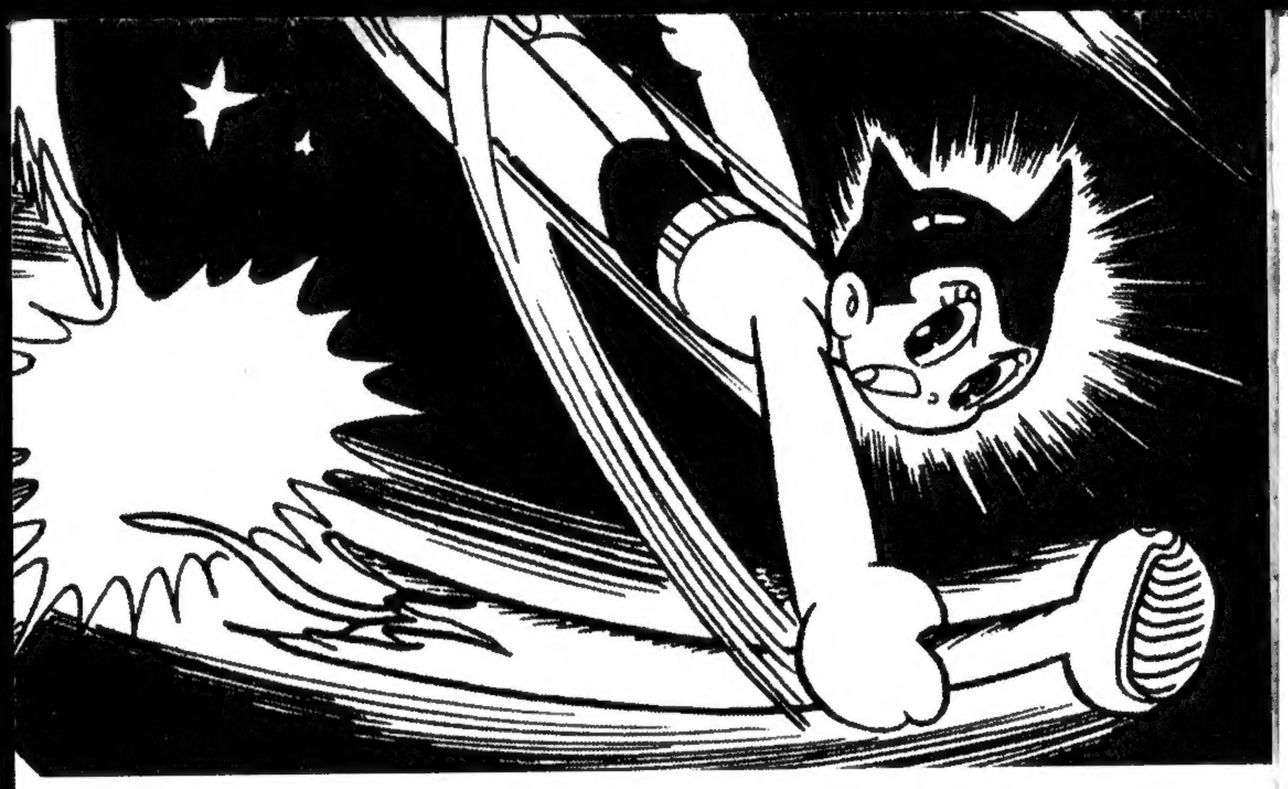

17
Osamu Tezuka's Original
ASTRO BOY®

From the boundless imagination of Osamu Tezuka, arguably history's most important – and inarguably its most prolific – creator of graphic fiction, comes *Astro Boy*, the singular archetype of the exploding anime and manga industries. *Astro Boy* is a timeless, all-ages masterpiece of action, fun, and humanity – and plenty of robots! In this volume: Astro travels to Mexico to help unlock the secrets – the *deadly* secrets – of a Mayan pyramid; a dangerous gangster threatens world order by turning its leaders into mental children; and Astro must face the challenge of microscopic alien invaders!





ASTRO BOY

17

by

Osamu Tezuka

Table of Contents

A NOTE TO READERS.....5

THE FROZEN HUMAN.....7

GADEMU.....41

FUHRER ZZZ.....81

THE FACE IN THE ROCK.....131

SPACE PARASITES.....151

THE FROZEN HUMAN

First appeared in the July 1955 supplement edition of *Shonen* magazine.

AROUND 1955 IN JAPAN...

...IF YOU MENTIONED THE WORD "PYRAMID"...

...MOST CHILDREN ONLY KNEW THE *GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA*...

OF COURSE, THERE ARE OTHER PYRAMIDS, TOO, IN THE RUINS OF THE INCA EMPIRE IN PERU AND OTHER SITES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT THEY ARE NOT SO WELL KNOWN. IN 1955 HARDLY ANYONE HAD HEARD OF THEM...

THE FOLLOWING STORY, "THE FROZEN HUMAN," WAS CREATED IN THIS CONTEXT, BUT IT DEALT WITH *MAYAN* PYRAMIDS...

IT APPARENTLY SURPRISED THE READERS...

SOME EVEN GOT ANGRY AND SAID I HAD MADE UP A RIDICULOUS STORY ABOUT PYRAMIDS, THAT I HAD DELIBERATELY TRANSFERRED THE EGYPTIAN PYRAMID IDEA TO MEXICO...

THE FUNNY THING IS, WHEN *ASTRO BOY* WAS ANIMATED FOR TELEVISION, WE CHANGED THE SETTING OF "THE FROZEN HUMAN" FROM MEXICO TO EGYPT TO AVOID CONFUSING VIEWERS...

WHEN THE AMERICAN BROADCASTERS SAW THIS, THEY WERE OVER-JOYED...

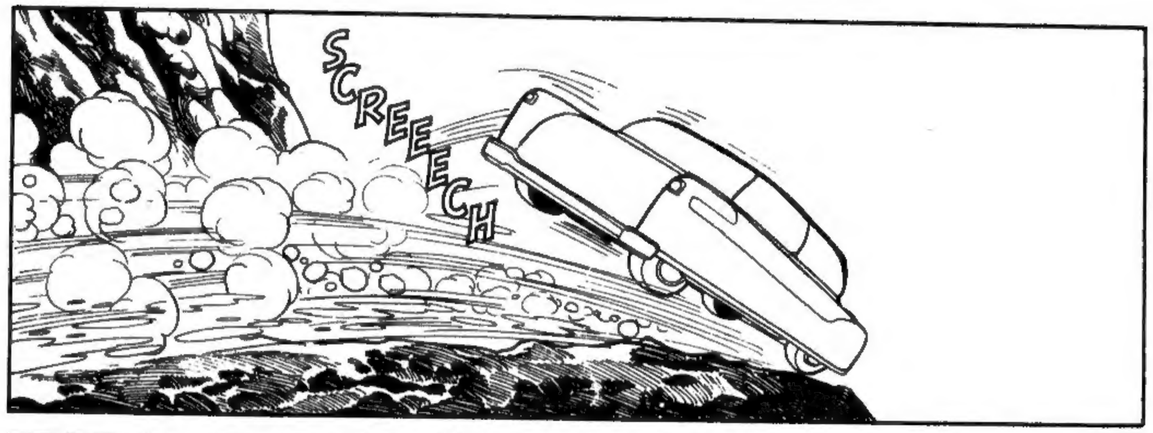
REALLY? HOW COME?

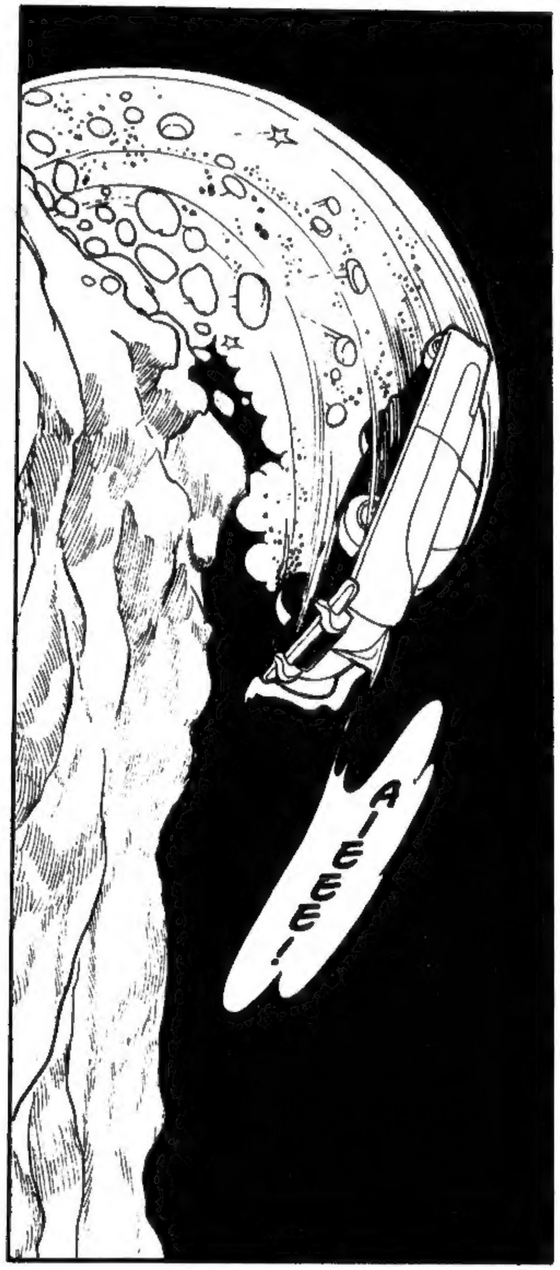
THEY ALL THOUGHT OF *LAWRENCE OF ARABIA!*

THEY LOVED THE FACT THAT THE BAD GUYS IN MY STORY WERE ALL DRESSED LIKE ARABIAN ROBBERS...

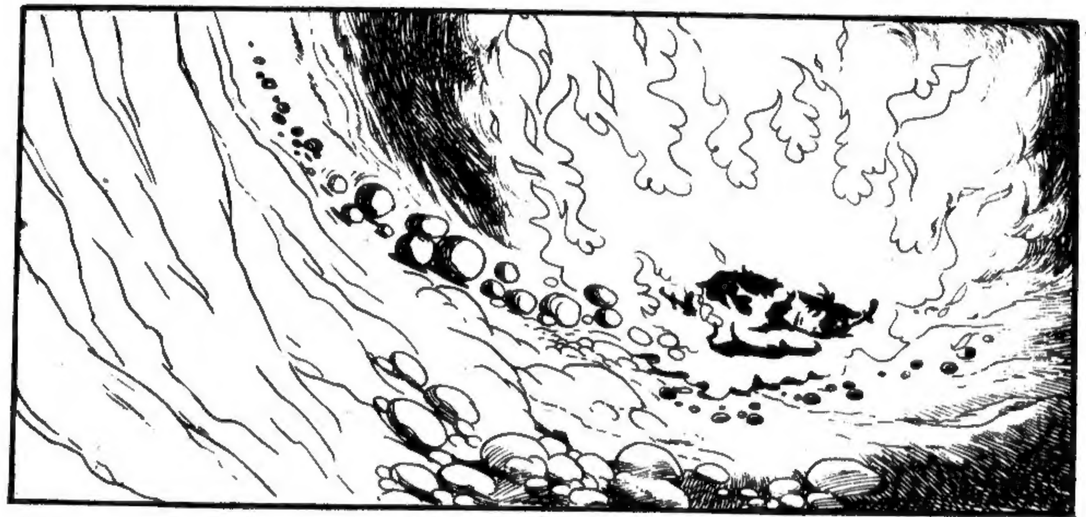
WATCH OUT!

THE MOVIE, *LAWRENCE OF ARABIA*, WAS A HUGE HIT IN AMERICA AROUND THAT TIME...

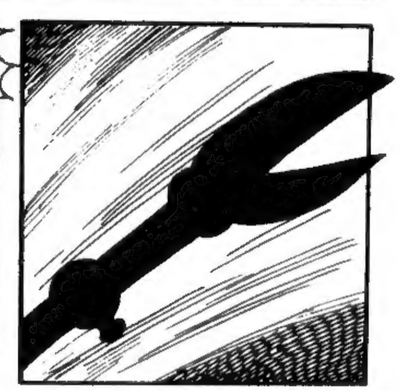

SCREEECH


AIEEE!

KERBASH



ALL RIGHT... WHO PUT THOSE BOULDERS IN THE ROAD!!?



SWISH
YIKES!

WH... WHAT'RE YOU GUYS?!

MOGAH

UH OH!

KNOCK IT OFF! I'M JUST TRAVELING THROUGH HERE!

THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO *HATE* ME!

BESIDES, IF YOU'RE GONNA ATTACK ME, I WANNA KNOW WHY!

WHO *ARE* YOU?!!

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

I'VE ONLY BEEN IN MEXICO FOR *THREE DAYS*...

... AND I'M ALREADY BEING FOLLOWED AND ATTACKED BY WEIRDOS LIKE THAT.

LOOKS LIKE A *TENT* OVER THERE...

EXCUSE ME... I WONDER IF YOU COULD LEND ME SOME CLOTHES YOU DON'T NEED...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, KID?

YOU DESERVE TO *DANCE!*

BLAM

PLEASE, MISTER... I'M *ASTRO BOY*... I'M FROM *JAPAN!*

MY CLOTHES WERE ALL BURNED IN A CAR ACCIDENT EARLIER...

BLAM

A ROBOT?! WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF *THEM!*

WHAT THE--?!

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, KID, BUT THAT OUGHTA TEACH YOU A LESSON! I KNOW IT'S *AGAINST THE LAW* FOR YOU TO HIT ME! HEH HEH HEH!

NOW, GET OUT OF HERE, YOU IDIOT! *SCRAM!!*

SAB! YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO *DRINK!*

EVEN ROBOTS'VE GOT A SENSE OF *PRIDE*...

WHO'RE YOU CALLING DRUNK?!!

K

E

R

P

O

W

SO, LITTLE ROBOT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?

I'M HERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE NAMED *MONSIEUR AMPERE*...

MONSIEUR AMPERE?!!

HE WANTS TO FIND *AMPERE!* TAKE HIM THERE, GUYS!

YOU CAN BUY CLOTHES IN TOWN...

THANKS, MISTER...

GET IN...

K

A

B

O

M

YOW!!

I STOPPED YOU. I AM *SPHINX*, AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR *YOU*, ASTRO BOY...

SPHINX?!

WAIT A MINUTE... I'VE HEARD YOUR NAME BEFORE... I KNOW... IT... IT WAS IN MY *SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS!* YOU GUARD THE *PYRAMIDS!*

ARE YOU DETERMINED TO GO SEE MONSIEUR AMPERE?

YEAH...

SO THE RUMORS *ARE* TRUE! I'VE NO CHOICE, THEN...

YOU ARE MY *ENEMY!*

GROAR

ZAP ZAP ZAP

ZAP ZAP ZAP

WHY'RE YOU ATTACKING *ME?!*

BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO HELP MONSIEUR AMPERE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ALL THE ROBOTS IN MEXICO ARE SO LOCO!

YOU HAVE GREAT POWER, ASTRO BOY, BUT YOU'LL NEVER COME NEAR ME!

TAKE *THIS!*

WE WILL MEET AGAIN AND CONTINUE OUR FIGHT THEN...

PHEW...

WELL, WELL... COME IN, ASTRO BOY...

MUST'VE BEEN A DIFFICULT JOURNEY... PEOPLE AROUND HERE STILL DON'T THINK MUCH OF ROBOTS...

ALL THE WAY FROM *JAPAN?*

I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ALL THIS FROM PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...

...BUT LONG, LONG AGO IN THIS COUNTRY...

"...THE *MAYAN* PEOPLE CREATED A POWERFUL CIVILIZATION, AND THEY LEFT US THESE WONDERFUL RUINS."

"MANY TEMPLES, OBSERVATORIES, AND TREASURE HOUSES STILL SURVIVE..."

HERE'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO EXCAVATE...

IT'S THE TOMB OF ONE OF THE MAYAN RULERS. HIS COFFIN, AS WELL AS A LOT OF SCIENTIFICALLY INTERESTING MATERIALS, ARE IN IT...

I NEED YOU TO PROTECT THE EXCAVATION SITE FROM ENEMIES WHO ARE TRYING TO *STOP* ME!

WELL, I JUST GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH ONE OF THEM...

WHA?!

YEAH... HE CALLED HIMSELF *SPHINX*.

SPHINX? *HM*. I KNOW HIM...

HE DOESN'T WANT ANY-ONE TO DISTURB THE RUINS, RIGHT?

RIGHT. HE SEEMED TO KNOW ABOUT ME...

HE PROBABLY HEARD THAT I HIRED YOU...

...AND WAS LYING IN WAIT TO *AMBUSH* YOU!

THE SPHINX ALWAYS GUARDS THE PYRAMIDS... SO ANYONE WITH A NAME LIKE THAT'D TRY TO STOP THE RUINS FROM BEING EXCAVATED...

HE'S EXACTLY WHO I NEED YOU TO FIGHT...

BUT THE SPHINX I MET WAS A *ROBOT*...

...AND ROBOTS AREN'T S'POSED TO DO ANYTHING *BAD*...

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY BOYS... THEY'RE OUT NEAR THE PYRAMIDS IN TWO GROUPS NOW...

M. AMPER

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, *MONSIEUR* AMPERE!

OUT OF THE WAY, YOU *IDIOT!*

NOPE. AND I WON'T LET YOU GO ON TO THE PYRAMID!

I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU, AMPERE!

UNGH!

WELL DONE...

IT'S A LITTLE *SCARY* 'ROUND HERE, ASTRO...

WE'RE BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW...

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND...

THIS IS WHERE I WAS ATTACKED BY THE SPHINX...

BE CAREFUL, ASTRO... THE SPHINX'LL PROB'LY ATTACK AGAIN!

THERE HE IS!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

BLAST IT... JUST A POOR OLD MOUNTAIN LION...

THERE WE ARE... THAT'S THE FIRST UNIT'S CAMP...

YOOHOO! ANYONE HOME?! I BROUGHT ASTRO BOY!

THERE'S FOOT-STEPS IN THE SAND...

B-BUT THEY'RE NOT HUMAN, BOSS!!

RUN FOR IT!!

IT'S THE CRAB-MEN!!

WHO'RE THE CRABMEN, MONSIEUR AMPERE?

THEY'RE MONSTERS FEARED BY THE LOCALS, ASTRO!

AND THEY'RE SHAPED LIKE CRABS...

THEY ATTACK AT NIGHT, SO NOBODY'S ACTUALLY GOTTEN A CLOSE LOOK AT THEM...

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I RAN INTO...

MONSIEUR AMPERE! LOOK OVER THERE!

OH, NO! THE SECOND UNIT'S BEEN ATTACKED, TOO!

I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED!!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

HI, MISTER...

OH, YOU AGAIN...

WHAT HAPPENED?!

THE CRABMEN ATTACKED US!!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GONE...

BLAST IT! THEY BURNED OUR TENTS!

YOU MEN ALL RIGHT?!

LOOK! THE BOSS IS HERE!

WHA?!

THE FIRST UNIT WAS WIPED OUT...

LET ME INTRODUCE ASTRO BOY TO YOU, MEN...

I ASKED HIM TO COME FROM JAPAN TO PROTECT US...

SO THAT'S WHO HE IS...

WE CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME HERE, PROFESSOR... WE'VE GOT TO START THE EXCAVA-TIONS...

...BEFORE THE SECOND UNIT'S WIPED OUT, TOO...

I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF THE ROBOTS WERE HERE...

SO LET ME EXPLAIN, BOYS. HERE'S THE PYRAMID...

IT HAS ENTRANCES ON THE EAST AND SOUTH SIDES...

A PASSAGEWAY PROCEEDS GRADUALLY DOWN FROM THIS ONE ENTRANCE...

...AND AS LONG AS IT HASN'T COLLAPSED, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THE CENTRAL CHAMBER, ABOUT FIFTY YARDS AWAY...

THIS CHAMBER IS ALSO THE BURIAL CHAMBER.

AND IT SHOULD HAVE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

IF OUR PATH'S BLOCKED BY ANY FALLEN MATERIAL, WE CAN HAVE ASTRO BOY CLEAR IT FOR US...

SO GET YOUR SHOVELS AND LET'S GO, MEN!

I WONDER WHAT THEIR REAL GOAL IS...

THERE ARE TOO MANY SHADY CHARACTERS INVOLVED FOR THIS TO BE AN ORDINARY EXCAVATION...

WHAT'RE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT, ROBO-BOY?

YOU'RE THE ONLY HUMAN WHO SEEMS *NORMAL*, MISTER...

HERE'S THE ENTRANCE...

GOSH... SEEMS KINDA DARK 'N *SCARY... REAL* SCARY...

IF YOU'RE SO SCARED OF *TUNNELS*, HOW C'N YOU EVEN RIDE A *TRAIN*, YOU NUMBSKULL?!

HA HA HA! YOU'RE A *ROBOT!* YOU MEAN YOU CAN READ PEOPLE'S CHARACTERS, TOO?! YOU THINK *I'M* THE ONLY NORMAL ONE?!

I CAN TELL IF PEOPLE ARE GOOD OR BAD, MISTER!

IT'S CHILLY, DAMP, DARK, AND IT GIVES ME THE WILLIES!

AW, *SHAD-DUP...*

"WELL, IT WAS BUILT OVER MANY YEARS, BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF *SLAVES*, ASTRO..."

WOW... IT'S AMAZING THAT ANCIENT PEOPLES COULD BUILD SOMETHING THIS BIG...

"'COURSE, IN THOSE DAYS THEY DIDN'T HAVE *ROBOTS* OR *MACHINES* TO HELP THEM..."

IT'S BECAUSE THE ANCIENTS BUILT THESE PYRAMIDS THAT WE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM TODAY— THAT THEY'VE *SURVIVED!*

UH OH! A *CAVE-IN!*

WATCH OUT!

RUMBLE ROAR

RUMBLE ROAR

RUMBLE ROAR

HACK! *HACK!* *COUGH!* *COUGH!*

LOOK! IT BLOCKED THE HOLE UP AHEAD...

IT'S TIME FOR PICKS AND SHOVELS, MEN! I'M GOING OUTSIDE... YOU GUYS DIG THE HOLE OPEN...

WOW... AT THIS RATE IT'LL TAKE US TWO OR THREE MONTHS TO GO FIFTY YARDS...

AH, I JUST *LOVE* THIS FRESH AIR!!

I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL EVEN *BETTER*...

HANDS UP, AMIGOS!

DON'T EVEN THINK OF MOVING!!

WONDER HOW LONG WE'VE GOTTA SPEND IN THIS STINKING HOLE...

I'LL SAY... WHILE THE BOSSES'RE OUT ENJOYING THAT FRESH AIR...

BLASTED ROBOTS, THEY DON'T EVEN NEED TO BREATHE...

HEY, ASTRO... YOU CAN DIG THE HOLE BY YOUR-SELF...

WE'RE GOIN' OUT-SIDE. LET US KNOW WHEN YOU FINISH...

AND NO GRUMBLING, UNDER-STAND?!

YOU'RE A *ROBO-SLAVE,* SO JUST DO AS WE SAY!

HARDY HAR...

I *HATE* YOU *MONSIEUR* AMPERE... YOU TRIED TO RUIN MY BROTHER'S EXPERIMENT! AND I'LL MAKE YOU *PAY* FOR IT!

!

TAKE THIS!

ACK!

UNGH...

HEH HEH... NOW THE TABLES'RE TURNED!

THIS GUY'S BEEN GETTING IN OUR WAY ALL ALONG, BOSS...

HMPH... SO YOU *HATE* US, EH?

WELL, GO AHEAD N' HATE ALL YOU WANT! WE DON'T *CARE!!*

ECCHH...

FOLT!

YOU *IDIOT!*

I GOT THE HOLE OPENED!

YOU THREE GUARD HIM... WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM LATER...

EVERY-ONE ELSE CAN HELP US EXPLORE...

WE FINALLY BROKE THROUGH!!

GOOD THING WE BROUGHT ALONG A ROBOT...

WHAT'S WITH THESE PUDDLES, PROFESSOR?

MUST BE SOME UNDER-GROUND WATER ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OUR PATH'S BEEN *BLOCKED!*
THINK WE CAN GO UNDER-WATER?
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, PROFES-SOR?
HMPH... LOOKS LIKE WATER FROM UNDER-GROUND HAS FILLED UP THE LOWER PARTS OF THE PASSAGEWAY...
HMM... GIVEN THE DISTANCE... WE OUGHT TO BE CLOSE TO THE MAIN CHAMBER...
WATER
OKAY, ASTRO... GO AHEAD UNDER WATER AND TELL US WHAT YOU SEE...
THE PROFESSOR WAS RIGHT! IT *IS* THE MAIN CHAMBER...
BUT IT'S FILLED WITH *CRAB-MEN!*

GA!
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ATTACKED ME THE OTHER NIGHT!
VOOSH
IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT, I'M *READY!!*
WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO ASTRO?
HE'S A ROBOT 'N PROB'LY WANDERING ABOUT WITH-OUT A CLUE...
BOSS! WE'VE GOT AN *EMERGENCY!* THE FOUR GUYS OUTSIDE 'VE BEEN *DONE IN!!*
THEY MUST'VE BEEN *ATTACKED!* BY THE C-C-*CRAB MEN!* OR THE S-S-*SPHINX!*
WELL, DID YOU SEE THE SPHINX?
Y-YEAH ...

SO HOW COME *YOU'RE* THE ONLY ONE STILL ALIVE, EH?

YOU CAN COME WITH US!

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE THE SPHINX DIDN'T TOUCH...

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME, ASTRO?

THE MAIN CHAMBER'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WATER...

WELL, WHAT'D YOU FIND?

THERE WERE ABOUT TEN CRABMEN, BUT I TOOK CARE OF 'EM...

HE'S RIGHT... THIS *IS* THE MAIN CHAMBER...

AND THERE *WERE* CRABMEN!

IT'S WEIRD, THOUGH, BECAUSE THEIR STOMACHS ARE FILLED WITH *COMPRESSED OXYGEN AND WATER*...

HERE'S THE MUMMY'S COFFIN... WONDER WHAT ELSE THERE IS?

THERE'S *NOTHING* ELSE! MUST'VE BEEN ROBBED CENTURIES AGO!

NOTHING?! MUST BE *SOMETHING* ELSE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S NOTHING ELSE...

MY INSTINCTS TELL ME THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE HERE SOMEWHERE!

SAY, THIS WALL'S HERE LOOKS *NEW*, *MONSIEUR AMPERE!*

GOOD! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING A LOT MORE INTERESTING THAN *ANCIENT CIVILIZATION!* *HEH HEH!*

IT OPENED!

HOLY COW!

WOW...

AMAZING!

INCREDI-BLE!

NO KIDDING!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE RELICS OF ANCIENT MAYAN CULTURE...

WAIT! IT'S... IT'S MY *BROTHER!!*

MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET LOOSE!

IT'S MY *BROTHER!!*

WHAT'S GOING ON, PROFES-SOR?

EVEN I DON'T KNOW! THIS IS A TOTAL *MYSTERY* TO ME!

JUST ASK THAT FELLOW WE CAUGHT OUTSIDE! I BET HE KNOWS *EVERYTHING!*

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... HE'S *FROZEN IN ICE!*

BUT IT IS MY BROTHER, *DR. DON PERES PRADO!*

MY BROTHER ALWAYS PREDICTED THAT AN *ATOMIC WAR* WOULD WIPE OUT 20TH CENTURY CIVILIZATION!

HE WANTED TO PRESERVE A RECORD OF THE 20TH CENTURY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!!

...SO HE CHOSE THIS *PYRAMID* AS THE SITE TO CARRY OUT HIS PROJECT!

TO CARRY OUT HIS DREAM OF COMMUNICATING WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS, HE CHOSE TO *FREEZE HIMSELF!*

YOU PROB'LY KNOW THAT IF YOU COOL A HUMAN BODY TO AROUND SIXTY-EIGHT DEGREES, IT GOES INTO *SUSPENDED HIBERNATION...*

...AND IT CAN THEN BE KEPT ALIVE FOR *YEARS...*

WELL, MY BROTHER WANTED TO PRESERVE HIMSELF FOR *HUNDREDS* OF YEARS!

SO HERE HE IS... UNAWARE OF ANYTHING AROUND HIM... WAITING TO MEET PEOPLE OF THE FUTURE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 20TH CENTURY!

THAT'S WHY I HATE YOU ALL!

YOUR BOTTOMLESS GREED WILL RUIN EVERYTHING!

UH OH!

IT'S THE *SPHINX!*

WHERE'D *HE* COME FROM?!

SO WE *MEET AGAIN,* ASTRO BOY...

BZZT ZAAAP

WATCH OUT! IT'S A MYSTERY *RAY!*

GYAN

GUWAAH!

NOT SO FAST!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

AIEEE!

YANK

P- PLEASE... DON'T AIM THAT AT ME!!

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN?!* YOU'RE A *ROBOT,* 'N YOU'VE ALREADY HURT OVER *THREE HUMANS!*

ARGH!

Y-YOU WIN, ASTRO...

...

TELL ME, SPHINX...

...WHY'D YOU FIGHT AMPERE?

I WAS CREATED TO GUARD DON PERES PRADO...

THE CRABMEN WERE LIKE LIVING *TANKS*... THEY WERE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN FRESH AIR AND WATER...

I...I WAS SUPPOSED TO DEFEND THIS BURIAL CHAMBER...

I...I DIDN'T REALIZE...

THAT'S WHY YOU FOUGHT AGAINST THE *GRAVE ROBBERS,* ISN'T IT...?

FORGIVE ME, SPHINX... I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO HAVE YOUR BODY REPAIRED...

IT WAS PARTLY MY FAULT, ASTRO... I SHOULD HAVE *EXPLAINED* THINGS TO YOU...

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, PROFESSOR... LET'S GRAB THE URANIUM AND SCRAM...

WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS FROZEN GUY...

JUST A MINUTE!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, PROFESSOR?! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE COMPASSIONATE!

NO, AMPERE! YOU *MUSTN'T* KILL HIM!

HE'S A *GREAT MAN!* I'M A SCIENTIST, TOO, BUT I'VE BEEN HELPING YOU ROB AN IMPORTANT GRAVE! I FEEL *ASHAMED* OF WHAT I'VE DONE!

IDIOT! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

STOP, I SAID!

ZAP ZAP ZAP

HMPH...
WELL, WE DIDN'T NEED *HIS* SERVICES ANYMORE ANYWAY...

AMPERE!! I'M ARRESTING YOU FOR *MURDER!!*

I'M AN *UNDERCOVER AGENT* FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT...

...AND NOW I'VE FINALY GOT THE GOODS ON YOU!

YOU LANKY *IDIOT!*

...SENT TO GATHER EVIDENCE ON YOUR *CRIMINAL ACTS!*

IF YOU'D STAYED IN TOWN, YOU COULD'VE STAYED OUT OF TROUBLE... BUT YOU HAD TO COME UP WITH THIS NEFARIOUS PLOT! WELL, IT'S JAIL TIME NOW!

AND I DON'T NEED ANY TROUBLE OUT OF *YOU!*

UNGHE...

THERE'S NO ESCAPE, AMIGOS!

WHEN YOU GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WATER, LAMP, USE BOULDERS TO TRAP ANYONE WHO COMES AFTER US THROUGH THE PASSAGE!

OOMPH...

HEY! LET *ME* GET OUT FIRST!

DON'T LET THAT BOULDER DROP YET!!

HEH HEH HEH HEH... AND WHY NOT, *MONSIEUR AMPERE?!*

I DON'T NEED *YOU* AROUND ANYMORE...

ULP!!

THIS WAY, I GET THE VALUABLE URANIUM ALL FOR MY SWEET SELF!!

I'M IN LUCK! THE CAR'S STILL WAITING FOR ME! *HEH HEH!*

SEE YA LATER, MR. DETECTIVE, ASTRO BOY, AND AMPERE!! YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF NICE DAYS IN THE MAIN CHAMBER...

... FOR THE *NEXT FEW THOUSAND YEARS!*

WHAT THE --?!

HOW'D *YOU* GET HERE?!

GUESS YOU *FORGOT*, LAMP... AS THE PROFESSOR EXPLAINED, THIS PYRAMID'S GOT AN EASTERN *AND* A SOUTHERN ENTRANCE...

BLAST IT!

TIME TO BE A MAN AND *SURRENDER*, LAMP!

WHA?!

AIEEE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO LAMP, ASTRO?

IT'S TOO LATE... HE'S DEAD...

IN THE END, THE BAD GUYS ALWAYS SEEM TO LOSE...

ASTRO'S RIGHT, AMPERE... WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOUR-SELF?

SO, ASTRO... WHAT'LL *YOU* DO NOW?

NOTHING...

I'M GONNA GO BACK INTO THE PYRAMID AND TRY'N FIX THE *SPHINX*...

BE SURE TO STOP BY 'N SAY HELLO WHEN YOU'RE IN MEXICO CITY NEXT TIME, ASTRO!

GADEMU

First serialized from August to September 1959 in *Shonen* magazine.

THE PASSENGER LINER FOR JAPAN VIA INDIA IS ABOUT TO DEPART...

TO YOKOHAMA

THERE'RE FORTY-SEVEN OF US...

Y-YESSIR...

NOW THAT'S DEFINITELY *NOT* THE FAMOUS FORTY-SEVEN MASTERLESS SAMURAI OF OLD...

I'M ON MY WAY BACK TO JAPAN FROM EGYPT, FOLKS!

SUPER DELUXE PASSENGER SHIP, NO?

WITH THIS THING, WE CAN NOW MAKE IT AROUND THE WORLD IN *FIVE DAYS*...

ATOMIC ENGINES MAKE IT SUPER FAST, *HUH*...

≠HIC≠

WOW... WE'RE ALREADY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN...

WHAT THE--?!

EEEK!

H-HA-HALP! IT'S HIM!

WHAT HAPPENED, SIR?

I...I SAW A BALD-HEADED *SEA GOBLIN!!*

I CAN'T IMAGINE A BALD-HEADED SEA GOBLIN ON AN ATOMIC SHIP...

WAIT! THERE HE *IS!*

≠WHEW≠! FROM BEHIND, YOU LOOKED KINDA SCARY, MISTER...

HOLD IT!

AFTER SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON ME, SHOULDN'T YOU *APOLOGIZE?*

S... SORRY, SIR...

SO YOU'RE A *ROBOT*, EH?

IF YOU'RE A ROBOT, YOUR BEHAVIOR'S EVEN *MORE INEXCUSABLE...*

IN LIEU OF AN APOLOGY, I WANT YOU TO *DUEL* WITH MY SERVANT ROBOTS!

WHA?!

I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL ROBOTTING ATHLETE, MISTER... I DON'T DO DUELS!!

SORRY, BUT I'M *LEAVING!*

HMPH!... BIG WORDS FOR A LITTLE ROBOT... BUT I *DEMAND* SATISFACTION ON THIS POINT!

SPLOOSH

JACK!!!

KERTHUD

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

OKAY, DUMP HIM IN THE *OCEAN...*

BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB

HEH HEH... NOW THE SHIP'S FREE OF HIM...

... AND I CAN DO ANYTHING I *WANT!*

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE MEETING...

EVENING... WHAT TIME IS IT?

EVENING... WHAT TIME IS IT?

EVENING... WHAT TIME IS IT?

AND WHO'RE *YOU...?*

EVENING... *HEH HEH...* WHAT TIME IS IT?

VERY GOOD!
EVERYONE REMEMBERS THE *PASSWORD!*
LET'S CUT THE GAMES AND GET ON WITH IT! I'M A WANTED MAN, BUT I HATE MASQUERADING AS A *WOMAN!*
NOW, NOW, SIR... I KNOW HOW HARD IT'S BEEN FOR YOU, USING THAT *VENTRILOQUIST'S DOLL...*
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, ANYWAY, MEPHISTO? MAKING US MEET AT SEA?
GENTLEMEN! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO BUY!
SORRY, MEPHISTO, BUT THE ROBOTS YOU SELL US ARE *USELESS!*
HEE HEE
YEAH, THEY'RE ALL *JUNK!*
I CAN'T EVEN USE 'EM TO ROB *SAFES!*
AND THE POLICE'RE ON TO US, TOO!!
GENTLEMEN... *QUIET!* YOU CAN'T USE PERFECT ROBOTS...
...BECAUSE *PERFECT* ROBOTS DON'T DO *BAD* THINGS!

THAT'S WHY I MADE AN *IMPERFECT* ROBOT! A REALLY *POWERFUL* ONE!
A REALLY BIG, *SCARY* ONE!!
YOU IDIOT! THE BIGGER THE ROBOT, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THE POLICE TO FIND 'EM!!
NO, THIS ONE ABSOLUTELY WON'T BE CAUGHT!
THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!*
WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO'S THERE?!
AH, WHO COULD IT BE...
BUT MY DARLING MIYO NEXT DOOR...
PLAYING WITH HER DOLL!!

PHEW!... THAT WAS CLOSE...

COME ON OUT, YOU IDIOT!

ENOUGH COMMERCIALS, MEPHISTO. JUST SHOW US THE *ROBOT!*

AT EXACTLY MIDNIGHT, GENTLEMEN, YOU'LL *SEE* THE ROBOT IN *ACTION!*

I WANT YOU TO ACT LIKE ORDINARY PASSENGERS, AND PRETEND TO BE *TERRI-FIED!*

WATCH CARE-FULLY HOW THE ROBOT APPEARS AND THEN *DIS-APPEARS!*

IF YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE...

YOU CAN *BUY* IT TOMORROW AT 8 AM! *HAH HAH!*

ZZZZ

SNORE

SNUFFLE

BZZZZZ

360
1804

ZZZZZZZZZ

FWP

IT'S MIDNIGHT! WHERE'S MEPHISTO'S ROBOT?!

I BET IT'LL BE ANOTHER *DUD...*

MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK TO *SLEEP...*

... BUT THEN, JUST AS I OPEN THE CURTAIN...

...IT *APPEARS !!!!*

CRACK

FLASH

CRUNCH

THUMP THUMP TUMP

EEEK!!

CREAK CREAK THUMP THUMP BAM

CAPTAIN! WAKE UP, SIR! IT'S A *SEA MONSTER!* IT'S EATING ALL THE NECKLACES AND MONEY IN SIGHT!

HALP! IT'S ENTERED MY CABIN!

CRASH

KERTHUD

WHERE'D THE FIRST MATE GO? HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM!

LOOK! THE LADDER'S *BENT!* THE MONSTER MUST'VE GONE INTO THE *HOLD!*

THIS IS *SCARY...*

THE MONSTER'S GOTTA BE IN THE HOLD!!

WHA?! THERE'S A *HOLE* IN THE HULL!

WHAT'LL WE DO IF HE JUMPS OUT?!

IF HE'S A MONSTER, HE WON'T *ANNOUNCE* IT, *THAT'S* FOR SURE...

HEH HEH HEH... THEY'RE PROBABLY RAISING A RUCKUS IN THE HOLD RIGHT NOW... BUT *NOBODY* ON THIS SHIP'LL GUESS WHAT THE MONSTER *REALLY* IS...

NO SIGN IT'S CLIMBED THIS LADDER...

THAT MEANS IT MUST BE RIGHT AROUND THIS CORNER...

THAT'S IT, *THERE!* SHINE A LIGHT ON IT!

WHA?! THERE'S *NOTHING THERE!!*

WHAT'S GOING ON?! WE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE ELSE! IT'S *GOTTA* BE HERE!!

HOW COULD IT JUST *VANISH?!*

IT DEFINITELY CAME HERE...

SINCE WHEN IS THIS SHIP KEEPING MONSTERS AS PETS!?

WAIT! MAYBE IT'S OVER *THERE!*

SHOW ME!

I CAN'T TELL WHICH WORD BALLOON BELONGS TO WHICH PERSON...

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

WHAT SORT OF MONSTER WAS IT?!

I BET IT CLIMBED THIS LADDER 'N *ESCAPED!*

DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS!* THERE'S NO TRACKS ON IT!

IF THE MONSTER DID CLIMB THE LADDER TO GET OUT...

...IT WOULD HAVE *BENT* THE LADDER, LIKE IT DID THE OTHER ONE, WITH ITS *WEIGHT.*

DO SOMETHING, CAPTAIN!! THE THING STOLE MY *MONEY!!*

GIMME MY NECKLACE BACK!!

I WANT MY MONEY BACK!!

PLEASE! CALM DOWN, FOLKS! WE'LL SEARCH ONE MORE TIME!

HEH HEH HEH...

GWA HA HA! THEY CAN SEARCH ALL THEY WANT, BUT THEY'LL *NEVER* FIGURE IT OUT...

94 1105

HEY, MEPHISTO!

I SAW THE WHOLE THING... NOT A BAD MONSTER!

IN FACT, I'LL TAKE ONE... HERE'S A DEPOSIT OF FIFTY GRAND...

WHERE IS THE DANGED THING HIDING, ANYWAY?

HEH HEH... THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU...

NOW JUST A SECOND, MEPHISTO! *I'LL* PAY YOU *ONE HUNDRED GRAND* FOR THAT MONSTER!

HEY! I WAS *FIRST*, PAL!

BUT I'M PAYING *ONE HUNDRED GRAND!* SO WHAT'S YOUR *PROBLEM?*

HOW DARE YOU!

HOLD ON, GENTS!

AS PROMISED, I'M GOING TO SELL IT AT 8AM TOMORROW MORNING! NOT A MINUTE SOONER!

AND WITH THAT, A GOOD NIGHT, GENTLEMEN... *HEH HEH HEH...*

HEH HEH... GOSH, THAT SURE WENT WELL...

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GIVE UP MY MONSTER FOR A MEASLY FIFTY OR HUNDRED GRAND!

TOMORROW I'M *REALLY* GONNA CLEAN UP! *HA HA!*

SWWOOOOSH

SPLOOSH

VOOSH

? ?

MEANWHILE, ASTRO -- COVERED WITH A STICKY SUBSTANCE AND DROPPED INTO THE SEA BY MEPHISTO'S MEN -- WAS BEING ATTACKED BY VICIOUS KILLER WHALES!

FOMP

MADE IT!

THANKS TO YOU GUYS, I'M *FREE!*

AND SINCE I JUST THANKED YOU, DON'T ATTACK ME!

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?

THAT'S ENOUGH, NOW! TIME TO *BEHAVE!*

TIME FOR ME TO GET BACK TO THAT SEA MONSTER!

HEH HEH HA HA...

WHA?! WHO'S THERE?!

IT'S ME, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER!

TOMMY!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

I *FOLLOWED* YOU HERE, MEPHISTO...

I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE TAKING THIS SHIP...

SO I *STOWED AWAY,* AND *SAW* WHAT HAPPENED!

S-SO YOU SAW...

I SURE DID! YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BORROW *GADEMU,* THE MONSTER I MADE, BUT YOU *STOLE* IT, *THAT'S* WHAT HAPPENED!

LISTEN, MEPHISTO... I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SELLING MY INVENTIONS TO EVIL PEOPLE!!

BUT *WHY?* *WHY'D* YOU DO IT?!

LISTEN, TOMMY... WE CAN MAKE GOOD MONEY! BOTH OF US! TOGETHER!

YOU *IDIOT!*

.....
.....
.....

PLEASE, TOMMY... I'LL REFORM, I SWEAR... JUST LET ME DO IT THIS ONE TIME...

NO! I WANT YOU TO GO TO THE CAPTAIN, TELL HIM WHAT YOU DID, AND APOLOGIZE!

TELL HIM THE SEA MONSTER'S REALLY A COLLECTION OF FORTY-SEVEN ROBOTS, ALL LINKED TOGETHER!

IF YOU WON'T TELL HIM, I WILL!

W-WAIT!

I WON'T LET YOU SELL GADEMU TO THOSE GANG BOSSES!

...AND DON'T TRY ANYTHING!

GO BACK IN YOUR ROOM, PAL...

WE MEET AGAIN, MEPHISTO...

WHA?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW, AND I'M NOT SELLING THE MONSTER! YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE!

IT'S THE MOMENT OF DECISION FOR YOU, MEPHISTO...

I WANT THE MONSTER! SO WHERE IS IT?!

WHERE'D YOU HIDE IT, PUNK?

I... I... ER...

WE'LL WAIT ONE MINUTE. THEN WE'LL FILL YOU FULL OF HOLES...

DON'T TELL HIM, MEPHISTO!!

TEN SECONDS ...

I... ER... I...

I'LL CATCH THAT BALD GUY AND HIS FORTY-SEVEN ROBOTS AND MAKE THEM ALL CONFESS!!

ZOOOM

WONDER WHICH ROOM THEY'RE IN?!

I'D BETTER SET MY HEARING TO 1000X!

THEY'RE NOT HERE...

NOT HERE, EITHER...

TOO BAD THERE ARE OVER *1800* ROOMS...

WAIT... *PLEASE...*

DON'T SHOOT! I'LL TELL YOU... I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING...

NO! DON'T TELL HIM, MEPHISTO!

FORGIVE ME, TOMMY! I'VE *GOT* TO TELL HIM NOW!

WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA TALK, *TALK...*

THE COMMAND IS *"GADEMU"* ...

"GAD-EMU"? WHAT'S THAT?!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR TRICKS!

THERE'S FORTY... FORTY-SEVEN ROBOTS NEXT DOOR... MY SERVANTS!

WHAT OF 'EM?!

IF YOU SAY THE WORD GADEMU, THEY'LL ALL LINK TOGETHER AND BECOME THE MON-STER!

YOU SERI-OUS?!

IT'S TRUE! THAT'S THE SECRET OF THE MONSTER! NOBODY REALIZES IT WHEN THE ROBOTS ARE SEPARATE!

WE'LL GIVE IT A TRY, WITH YOU WATCHING...

LET ME GO, PLEASE...

COME ON OUT, EVERY-BODY... COME OUT ON DECK...

....

....

NO! I WON'T LET THEM GO!

POW

WHACK

BAM

THAT'S ENOUGH OF YOU, KID!

BANG

THUD

I HEAR GUN-SHOTS!

BOOM

YOU OKAY?

MY BROTHER... ON DECK...

NO ONE HERE... MAKE SURE NOBODY'S WATCHING...

OKAY, MEPHISTO, SHOW US WHAT THEY CAN DO!

GADEMU!

FWOMP

KAPOP

KAPOP

KAPOP

KAPOP

WOW! THIS IS *AMAZING!*

IT'S THE SAME MONSTER! THE ONE THAT DISAPPEARED IN THE SHIP'S *HOLD!*

HEH HEH... IT NEVER DISAPPEARED... THE ROBOTS JUST SEPARATED, AND EACH ONE LEFT VIA THE LADDER!

BUT HOW'S THIS GUY EAT JEWELS?

HEH HEH... NOT ONLY JEWELS, IT EATS *HUMANS,* TOO!

WHAT?!

GET *'EM!* GET 'EM *ALL!!*

ULP!

AIEE!

IT GOT THE BOSS!

LET THE MONSTER HAVE IT!

RATATATATAT

RATATATATAT

VOOOSH

ARGH!

VOOSH

HALP!

HELP!

HEH HEH... SERVES YOU RIGHT!

THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO INSULT ME. IT'S GOOD RIDDANCE TO GANG BOSSES!

SNIP

SNIP

SNIP

YIKES!

HELP! LET ME GO!

I'M YOUR MASTER!

BLAST IT! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE SAID "GET 'EM ALL"! IT THINKS I'M ONE OF 'EM!

I'VE GOTTA MAKE IT SEPARATE SOMEHOW!!

MU... DE...

WHAT THE--?!

KABOOSH

AIEEE!

UH OH... IT'S THAT *BALD GUY!*

♪UHNGH♪...

WHA?! ASTRO BOY?!

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!

YOUR BROTHER TOLD ME EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, MR. MEPHISTO... YOU'RE A DESPICABLE COWARD!

LOOK AT YOUR BROTHER, THERE!

TOMMY! WHAT HAPPENED?!

THEY SHOT ME! BUT ASTRO SAVED ME!!

FORGIVE ME, TOMMY... *FORGIVE ME...*

WHAT YOU DID IS UNFORGIVABLE, MR. MEPHISTO... IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, YOU'D BETTER TELL US NOW...

B-BUT IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING NOW, THE MONSTER'LL KEEP ON KILLING PEOPLE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE THE ORDER! *I'M* THE ONE WHO ORDERED, "GET 'EM ALL!"

HMM... WE'LL BE LANDING IN JAPAN IN AN HOUR...

AYE, AYE!

CONTACT THE JAPANESE NAVAL SELF DEFENSE FORCES! LET 'EM KNOW WE'RE IN *DANGER!*

WHAT'S THE COMMAND TO DISSASSEMBLE THE MONSTER, MEPHISTO?

YOU HAVE TO SAY *GA-DE-MU* BACK-WORDS

MU-DE-GA... OKAY, HERE WE GO!

WAIT, ASTRO...

I CAN'T LET A MONSTER LIKE THAT LAND IN JAPAN!

WAIT! HERE'S AN ISLAND!

UH OH... A *LIGHTHOUSE!* AND IT'S BROKEN IN TWO!

YOU OKAY, MISTER? DON'T WORRY, YOUR WOUNDS AREN'T TOO SERIOUS...

WHEN DID THE MONSTER COME HERE?

IT WAS HERE 'TIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO. IT *ATTACKED* ME, BUT THEN IT DISAPPEARED...

THE PHONE TO THE MAINLAND STOPPED WORKING, SO I COULDN'T CONTACT ANYONE...

SOMETHING *CUT* THE UNDERSEA PHONE CABLE!

THERE'S THE *MONSTER!*

OKAY, HERE WE GO... *MU... DE...*

SPLORSH

UP TO YOUR SAME OLD STICKY TRICKS, I SEE...

MU... DE...

SPLORSH

≠UNGHA≠ ≠UNGH≠...

BLASTED THING ALWAYS GETS AWAY JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME...

MUST'VE DUG INTO THE SEA SAND...

IF SO, HERE I COME, TOO!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO ATONE FOR YOUR EVIL DEEDS, MEPHISTO...

I'LL DO *ANYTHING,* SIR, REALLY...

GOOD! FOR STARTERS, THEN, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME...

...THE *NAMES OF THE GANGSTERS* WHO'VE INFILTRATED MY PASSENGERS!

PASSENGER LIST

WELL? LET'S HEAR IT!

ER... I... ER...

MEPHISTO! YOU'RE MY *BROTHER!*

BE *BRAVE!!*

.....

THIS'LL TAKE MORE COURAGE THAN ANY-THING I'VE EVER DONE, BUT I'LL TELL YOU...

FIRST OF ALL, THIS MAN HERE...

CLINIC

SLAM

WHAT THE--?!

BLAM BLAM

WHY YOU...

THIS IS REVENGE FOR MY BROTHER!

HE NEEDS HELP, DOCTOR!

NO... I'M FINE... LET... ME... CONTINUE...

AND THIS MAN HERE, AND THIS ONE, TOO...

MEPHISTO!!

THIS IS THE ISHIGAKI METEOROLOGICAL CENTER... WE SEE NO SIGN OF THE MONSTER YET!

ALL PEOPLE ON THE COAST ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE! THE MONSTER IS KNOWN TO KILL HUMANS!

AN' WE HAVE CLEAR WEATHER TODAY...

NO SIGN OF GADEMU YET...

IT'S PROBABLY CRAWLING ALONG THE SEABED...

WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT FROM LANDING ON JAPAN PROPER, AT ALL COSTS...

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR. WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT HERE!

UH OH... SOMETHING JUST RAMMED OUR STAR-BOARD SIDE!

THERE'S A *HOLE* IN THE SHIP'S HULL!!

VOOOOSH

VOOOOSH

VOOOOSH

YIKES! IT'S *GADEMU!!*

SHOOT THE BLASTED THING!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

SPWOOSH

}AGHHH!{

AIEEE!

VOOOOOSH

BLASTED GADEMU! THIS HAS GONE ON TOO LONG!!

ARGGGH!

SNAP

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO DO ME IN...

THIS 'LL STOP YOU FROM SHOOTING THAT STICKY STUFF!

EVERYONE OUT OF THE WAY!

VOOOSH

HERE I COME!!

FIRST, I'LL TAKE YOU UP ABOUT 200 YARDS IN THE SKY...

AND THEN I'LL LET YOU *DROP*... GET READY EVERY-BODY!

TIME TO FINISH YOU OFF!!

KABOOM

FIRE, MEN! *FIRE!*

BOOM BOOM

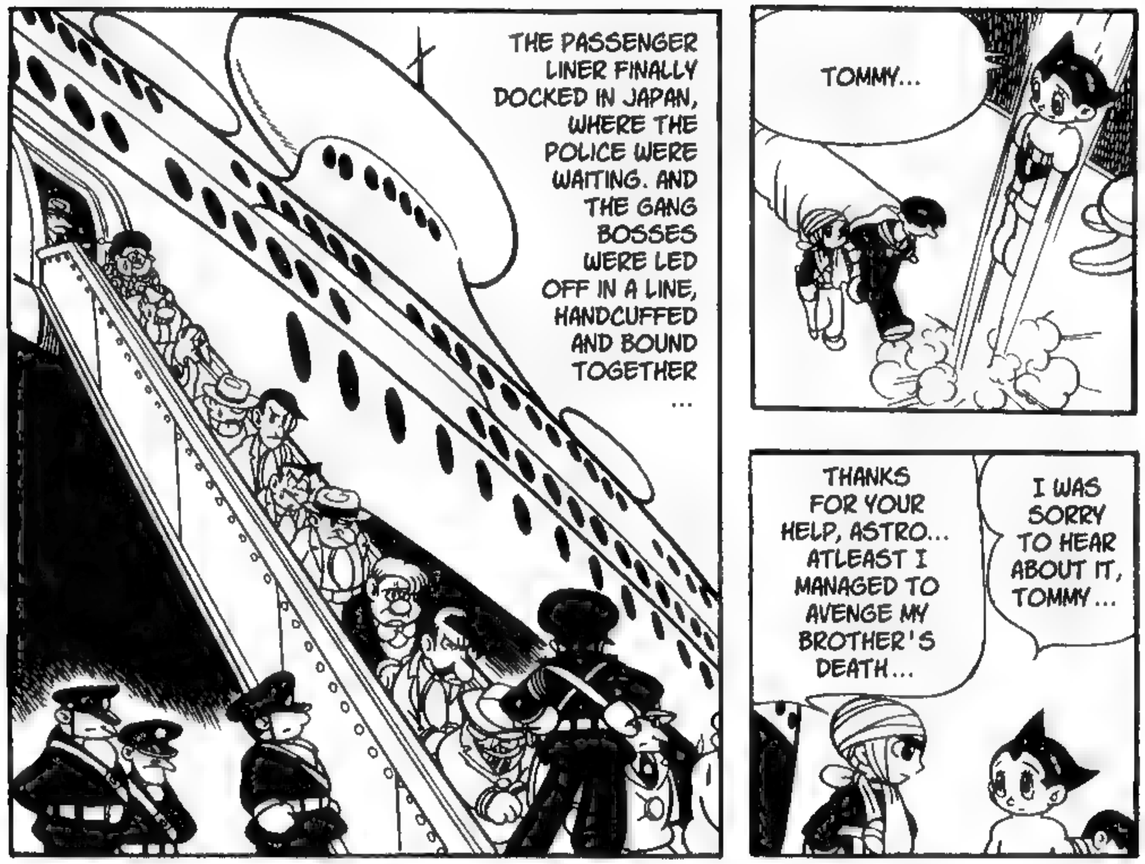
BOOM BOOM KABOOM BOOM

BANZAI!!

HOORAH!!

IT *WORKED!* ASTRO DID IT!! THE MONSTER'S BEEN SMASHED TO *SMITHER-EENS!*

AN' WE HAVE CLEAR WEATHER TODAY...


THE PASSENGER LINER FINALLY DOCKED IN JAPAN, WHERE THE POLICE WERE WAITING. AND THE GANG BOSSES WERE LED OFF IN A LINE, HANDCUFFED AND BOUND TOGETHER ...
TOMMY...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, ASTRO... ATLEAST I MANAGED TO AVENGE MY BROTHER'S DEATH...
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT IT, TOMMY...
I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT, BUT *I'M* THE ONE WHO CREATED GADEMU, ASTRO...
.....
.....
.....
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING... SOMETHING LIKE *YOU*, ASTRO... FAREWELL...
NEXT TIME I SWEAR I'LL MAKE SOMETHING THAT WILL *HELP* HUMANS...

FUHRER ZZZ

First serialized from September to December 1954 in *Shonen* magazine.

HI, DR. TEZUKA.

UM, HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT CREATING YOUR STORIES?

DO YOU REALLY THINK UP THE WHOLE STORY FIRST AND THEN DRAW IT?

HEH HEH...

THAT'S AN EMBARASSING QUESTION!

SOMETIMES I DO THAT...

... BUT SOMETIMES I'M ALSO WORKING ON A TIGHT DEADLINE...

... AND THEN I START DRAWING WITHOUT HAVING A GOOD ENDING READY...

A STORY OF MINE TITLED "CAPTAIN KEN" IS AN EXAMPLE...

IT'S ABOUT A BOY WHO CALLED HIM-SELF CAPTAIN KEN, AND A YOUNG GIRL NAMED KEN MIZUKAMI...

プテリKen

手塚治虫

"THE GIRL AND BOY LOOK IDENTICAL. IN FACT, I STARTED DRAWING THE STORY WITH THE IDEA THAT ONE PERSON WOULD PLAY BOTH ROLES..."

"BUT READERS WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH MY MANGA, *RIBON NO KISHI*, OR 'PRINCESS KNIGHT,' KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON RIGHT AWAY..."

"THEY DELUGED ME WITH LETTERS, TELLING ME THE TWO CHARACTERS WERE REALLY THE ***SAME PERSON***... I WAS PUT OFF BY THIS, AND DECIDED TO MAKE THEM DIFFERENT PEOPLE..."

"...SO I CHANGED THE STORYLINE AND MADE CAPTAIN KEN THE ***SON*** OF KEN MIZUKAMI..."

WOW... THAT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD TO DO...

IN THE FOLLOWING STORY, I INITIALLY INTENDED FUHRER ZZZ TO BE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON AS PRESIDENT LYON, BUT THIS LATER SEEMED LIKE A DUMB IDEA, SO I CHANGED IT...

"IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY, THERE'S ALSO A *NOH* DRAMA SEQUENCE, FOR ATMOSPHERE. AT THE TIME, IT WAS VERY UNUSUAL FOR SOMETHING AS TRADITIONAL AS *NOH* TO BE DEPICTED IN CHILDREN'S MANGA, BUT IT PROVED QUITE POPULAR."

GREETINGS FROM TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. PRESIDENT LYON WILL BE ARRIVING ANY MINUTE ON THE JET CLIPPER. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE PRESIDENT IS REGARDED AS A **HERO** FOR HIS UNSTINTING EFFORTS TO CREATE AN **EARTH FEDERATION.** THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD GATHERED HERE TODAY TESTIFIES TO HIS **ENORMOUS POPULARITY!**

TWO

YAY YAY HOORAH HOORAH ROAR

HOORAH HOORAH

THE PRESIDENT IS NOW APPEARING ON THE AIRPLANE'S EXIT RAMP...

YAY YAY YAY HOORAH YAY YAY HOORAH

CWT

CWT

HANEDA NATIONAL AIR PORT SERVICE STATION VIDEO BOX ANAUNCER: MAWAMARA

THIS IMPOSING AND CHARISMATIC FIGURE IS LEADING THE WORLD TOWARDS PEACE...

HE IS NOW BEING PRESENTED WITH FLOWERS, BUT THE CROWD IS BLOCKING THE VIEW...

THANK YOU... THANK YOU, MY JAPANESE FRIENDS!

HE IS NOW IN FRONT OF THE MICRO-PHONES...

IF THE PERSON IN FRONT WOULD ONLY MOVE...

I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT *JAPAN* ON MY TRIP AROUND THE WORLD...

THE CREATION OF AN *EARTH FEDERATION* WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITH-OUT YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW BOARDED A LIMOUSINE WITH HIS SON, ROBERTO, AND IS ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE IMPERIAL HOTEL...

JUST A MOMENT... WE BRING YOU A SPECIAL ANNOUNCE-MENT!

WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY REPORT FROM PARIS...

LAST NIGHT, PRESIDENT AILE, OF FRANCE...

...WAS ATTACKED BY ZZZ, AND RENDERED INSANE!

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POLITICIANS DRIVEN MAD BY THE ZZZ GANG...

...TO SEVEN!!

WHO COULD HAVE IMAGINED SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT WOULD OCCUR AT THIS TIME...

VROOOM VROOOM

PRESIDENT LYON IS SURELY NOT YET AWARE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

VROOOM VROOM VROOM

LONG LIVE PRESIDENT LYON! BANZAI! HOORAH!

HOORAH! HOORAH! HOORAH!

YEEEEE...

KATHOMP KATHOMP

KATHOMP

KATHOMP KATHOMP

KATHOMP KATHOMP KATHOMP KATHOMP

CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHONK

MARVELOUS! IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE SUCH TRADITIONS SURVIVING, NO MATTER HOW MUCH PROGRESS OUR SCIENTIFIC CIVILIZATION MAKES!

THIS IS A REGULAR PERFORMANCE AT THE KABUKI THEATER HERE IN JAPAN, MISTER PRESIDENT...

HEY! DOWN IN FRONT!

EXCEL-LENCY!!

WHAT?! IS THIS TRUE?!

"PRESIDENT OF FRANCE ATTACKED BY ZZZ..."

HE WAS MY POLITICAL RIVAL, BUT WE HAVE LOST A GOOD MAN!

FATHER!!

I CAN'T KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!

ZZZ'S GONNA BE AFTER US, NOW...

HE'S PROBABLY IN JAPAN RIGHT *NOW!!*

DO SOMETHING, FATHER!

AREN'T YOU AT ALL *WORRIED,* FATHER?

YOU'RE PROBABLY *NEXT!!*

LISTEN, SON...

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY...

I'M NOT LIKE OTHER POLITICIANS...

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR PEOPLE TO *HATE* ME...

OTHER POLITICIANS TEND TO THINK OF THEMSELVES FIRST AND FOREMOST...

... AND THEY WIND UP MAKING *ENEMIES* ...

SOMETIMES THEY'RE EVEN *ASSASSINATED.*

BUT NOT *ME!!*

I'VE ALWAYS DONE WHAT PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD *WANTED* ME TO DO...

RINGG RINGG RIGGG RINGGG RIMMGGGG

... SO NO ONE HATES ME...

RRINGG

I *LOVE YOU,* ROBERTO...

LET'S GO, SON...

DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...

PLEASE PROTECT MY FATHER ...

INTER-MISSION'S OVER, ROBERTO...

Z Z Z

CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK

WHA ?!

CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP

I WONDER ...

MISTER... I NEED YOU TO FOLLOW THAT CAR WHEREVER IT GOES...

TAILING SOMEONE, EH? *WOW!* JUST LIKE IN THE ACTION MOVIES I LOVE!

SOMEONE'S TAILING US! GET THEM IN THE REGULAR PLACE!

DO YOU HAVE A RADIO TRANSMITTER, MISTER? I NEED TO CONTACT MY FATHER AT THE KABUKIZA THEATER!

SORRY, SONNY... THIS CAB DOESN'T HAVE ONE...

GOSH, JAPANESE TAXIS SURE ARE INCONVENIENT...

SCREECH

LET'S GO!

YIKES!

CRASH SMASH

GOTTA FIND A PUBLIC *PHONE!*

A PUBLIC PHONE...

THERE! THERE'S ONE!

RATS! SOMEONE'S *USING* IT!

RIGHT... ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE PROFESSOR'S PLACE...

HURRY UP, MISTER! *PLEASE!*

UH OH... HERE THEY COME...

RIGHT... AN' THE PROFESSOR SAID TO SAY HELLO TO MOM...

DON'T WORRY, I'LL GO STRAIGHT HOME... HAVE SOME ENERGY READY FOR ME, OKAY?

OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU LATER...

CHAK

UNGH!

WHAT THE--?!

TAKE THIS!

VOOSH

TAKE THIS!

WATCH OUT! IT'S *POISON GAS!*

KRASSPLASH

UH OH...

VOOOSH

I'VE GOTTA *SAVE* HIM!

ROAR

ROAR

ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR

THE GANGSTER WAS USING *POISON GAS,* PROFESSOR... SO I THREW THE BOY IN THE RIVER BEFORE HE COULD BREATHE ANY OF IT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HIM...

SHMPH... I'VE SEEN THIS BOY BEFORE... IN A PHOTO IN THE NEWSPAPER... IT'S *ROBERTO,* THE SON OF *PRESIDENT LYON!*

B-BUT WHAT WOULD THE SON OF PRESIDENT LYON--WHO JUST ARRIVED IN JAPAN--HAVE BEEN DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

WE'D KNOW IF WE COULD JUST CATCH THE SCOUNDREL THAT ASTRO LET GET AWAY...

WELL, I DID GET HIS *PISTOL!*

WHA?! WELL, I'LL *BE!*

THE SECRET'S IN THIS *GAS...*

TIME TO ANALYZE IT IN THE LAB...

FIRST, WE'LL CHECK THE *COMPOSITION* OF THE GAS...

SNIFF...

PROFESSOR! THE GAS IS *LEAKING!*

WHOOPS... I FORGOT TO COVER THE *KEYHOLE...*

THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO PEEK THROUGH A KEYHOLE!

THANK HEAVENS, YOU'VE COME TO!

UNGH...

UNGH... *UNGH*... *GURR-URURUR BUNU KEKE HIHI...*

GOHO GOHO...

GA! GI! GU!

TEACHER! *STOP!!*

YOU'RE TURNING INTO A *GORILLA!*

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, TEACHER!

GOO GOO...

THIS IS A SERIOUS ILLNESS YOU HAVE!

YUM YUM...

EEEEEK!

W-WAIT A MINUTE...!

LESSEE... PRESIDENT ZZZ WAS ATTACKED WITH A GAS PISTOL, AND IT SAYS HE WAS TURNED INTO SOMEONE WITH THE IQ OF A *CHILD...*

ZZZ!

NOW I GET IT! ZZZ WAS GOING AFTER PRESIDENT LYON, WHO'S STUDYING IN JAPAN! BUT HIS SON, *ROBERTO,* WAS ATTACKED!

HIC... WHAT'VE I BEEN DOING TIL NOW?

TEACHER'S BETTER, PROFESSOR...

WHAT A *RELIEF...* HE MUST NOT HAVE INHALED MUCH...

LISTEN, ASTRO! IT SAYS THIS GAS ENTERS THE CEREBRUM AND CEREBELLUM AND TURNS ADULT HUMANS INTO THE EQUIVALENT OF *BABIES* AND *MONKEYS*... INHALE A LOT, AND IT'LL TURN YOU INTO A *DOG* OR A *CAT!!* IT'S *DEADLY!*

... WORSE YET, NO ONE YET KNOWS WHAT THE GAS IS COMPOSED OF, SO THERE'S *NO CURE* FOR IT!

"IT'S A NATURAL POISON GAS, THAT SEEPS OUT OF THE GROUND ON A CERTAIN ISLAND..."

"BUT FUHRER ZZZ IS APPARENTLY THE *ONLY ONE* WHO KNOWS ITS LOCATION!"

"IN FACT, IT'S BECAUSE HE DISCOVERED THE GAS..."

"... THAT HE WAS ABLE TO FORM HIS ZZZ GANG OF CONSPIRATORS!"

"THE GANG'S GOAL..."

"... IS TO SPRAY THE GAS ON SCHOLARS, POLITICIANS, AND CULTURAL ELITES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD..."

"... TO RUIN THEM... TO TURN THEM INTO THE EQUIVALENT OF THE *WALKING DEAD*..."

"THEIR VICTIMS THUS FAR INCLUDE MARSHALL CHULENIN OF THE RUSSIAN SUPREME COUNCIL..."

"... PROFESSOR HENSEN, THE FAMOUS DUTCH ATOMIC SCIENTIST..."

"... AND LAST NIGHT, THE *PRESIDENT OF FRANCE!*"

B... BUT *WHY* ARE THEY DOING IT?

THAT'S ANOTHER THING NO ONE KNOWS, UNFORTUNATELY...

PROFESSOR... ROBERTO'S COME TO!

WHERE'S THE BOY WHO SAVED ME?

SO *YOU'RE* THE ONE! THANKS AND *ARIGATO!!*

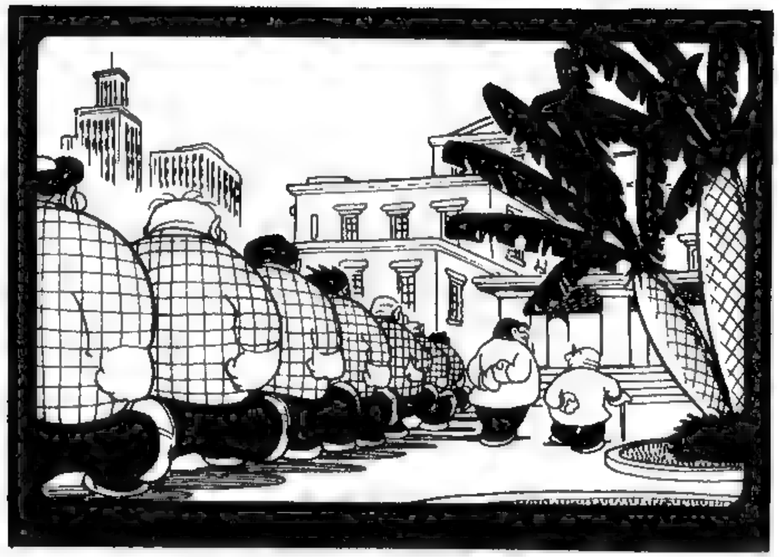
ACTUALLY, ROBERTO... ASTRO'S A ROBOT...

A *ROBOT?!* REALLY?!

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME, THEN... I NEED SOMEONE TO *PROTECT* MY FATHER! THE *ZZZ GANG'S* AFTER HIM!

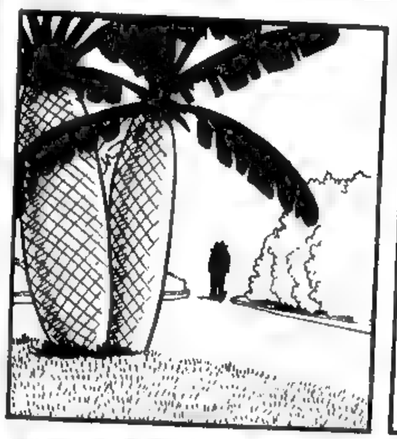
WE'LL CALL THE EMBASSY AND HAVE A CAR COME FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY...

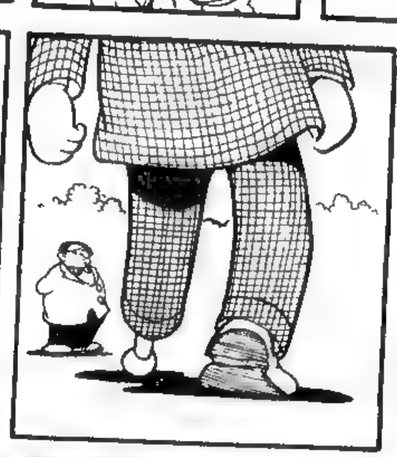
ROBERTO LYON, WHO WAS ATTACKED BY THE ZZZ GANG, IS BEING SAFELY DELIVERED TO HIS FATHER AT THE EMBASSY, FOLKS. HIS FATHER, PRESIDENT LYON, LOOKS EXTREMELY HAPPY, AND HAS JUST PRESENTED ASTRO BOY WITH A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION!

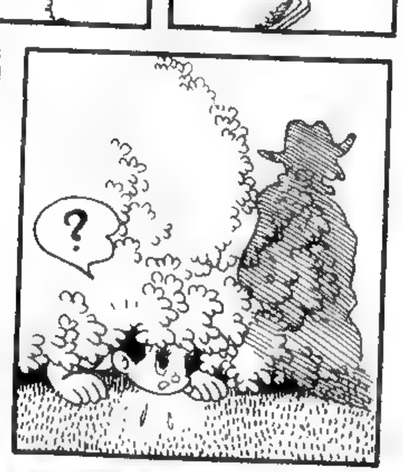


ON THE 12TH, PRESIDENT LYON, WHO IS CURRENTLY STAYING IN JAPAN, MET WITH PRIME MINISTER HAKONE AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL. AFTERWARDS, THE PRESIDENT TOLD WAITING REPORTERS THAT HE HOPED JAPAN WOULD HELP CREATE THE EARTH FEDERATION."

ACTUALLY, THAT WAS JUST FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. THEY COULDN'T REALLY AGREE ON ANYTHING AT ALL... MY FATHER'S REALLY UPSET, ASTRO...







WHO WAS THAT MAN ?!

ASTRO, YOU CAN'T COME IN LIKE THAT!

SHHH ...

ONE OF THE 222 GANG MEMBERS YOU TAILED THE OTHER NIGHT HAD A *PEG LEG*, RIGHT?

YES ...

WELL, THAT'S *HIM*, THEN... HE'S RIGHT OUTSIDE...

WHAT ?!!

HE'S TALKING TO YOUR *FATHER*, ROBERT!

HE CAN'T BE! YOU MUST BE *LYING!*

I'M *NOT*, ROBERTO... THEY WERE SPEAKING A *STRANGE LANGUAGE*...

HOW *DARE* YOU SAY THAT, ASTRO!

YOU'RE SAYING MY FATHER'S IN CAHOOTS WITH THE 222 GANG!! HOW *DARE* YOU DOUBT HIM!

GET OUT! I *NEVER* WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

TOO BAD THE MEETING DIDN'T GO WELL, MR. PRIME MINISTER...

WELL, IT'S TO BE EXPECTED!

IF WE GAVE LYON EVERY-THING HE WANTED, JAPAN'D BE *EATEN ALIVE!*

?

As a present, sir, in the next 24 hours we're going to douse your bald dome with a good spray of our gas!

-- zzz

WHA... WHA... WHA... *WHAT'S GOING ON?!*

INCREASE MY BODY GUARDS BY TENFOLD! DON'T LET ME OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!

DON'T WORRY, SIR, AS LONG AS *WE'RE* ALIVE, WE WON'T LET A MOUSE NEAR YOU!

HARUMPH!! IT FINALLY HAPPENED. ZZZ'S COMING AFTER *ME* NOW!

SECOND PLATOON! FORWARD!

THIRD PLATOON! FORWARD!

HERE COME THE ARMORED UNITS!

EVEN ZZZ'LL NEVER GET THROUGH *THIS* PICKET LINE!

BE CAREFUL, NONETHE-LESS!

THEY SAY ZZZ ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE SAYS HE'S GONNA DO...

WHA?!

ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP

ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP

WE'VE GOT AN INFILTRATOR IN THE RESIDENCE, SIR, BUT WE'LL CATCH HIM RIGHT AWAY...

THINK WE'RE DEALING WITH SOME KINDA NINJA-GHOST?

P-PLEASE!! THE MEN FROM ZZZ'LL FIND ME HERE, FOR SURE!

WE'VE FOUND SOME *FOOT-PRINTS!*

S N I F F

LOOK! THE TRAIL STOPS HERE!

THINK HE *VAN-ISHED* INTO *THIN AIR?*

GET ME SOME WHISKEY... I'VE GOT THE CHILLS...

IT'S *MID-NIGHT,* SIR...

HEH HEH

LOOK'S LIKE ZZZ DIDN'T MAKE IT... *HEH HEH HEH...*

BUT ACTUALLY, WE'RE RIGHT HERE, AS *PROMISED...*

WHAT?!

WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?!*

YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE MY *GUARDS!*

SMASH

MURDERERS!

UH OH... THEY GOT THE PRIME MINISTER!

HALP!

VOOOSH

THIS TIME YOU GUYS WON'T GET AWAY!

WHAT HAPPENED? THE ZZZ GANG ARRIVE?

THEY'RE COMING AFTER US RIGHT NOW!

THEY GOT THE PRIME MINISTER!

NO! THOSE GUYS'RE *IMPOSTERS!* THEY'RE REALLY *ZZZ MEMBERS!*

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!!

OWWCH!

AFTER 'IM, MEN!

WHEEEE

WHEEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEEE

WHEEEE

THE COPS'RE AFTER US!!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO *TAKE OFF*, THEN...

ROAR

WHEEEE

WHEEEEE

WHEEEE

ROAR

ROAR

MR. PRESIDENT! PRIME MINISTER HAKONE WAS ATTACKED BY THE ZZZ GANG LAST NIGHT!

WHA?!

THE POOR MAN...

THAT'S THE END OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN, THEN...

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE ZZZ MEMBER WHO ATTACKED THE PRIME MINISTER WAS REALLY *ASTRO BOY!*

ASTRO BOY? THE BOY ROBOT?!

B-BUT THAT CAN'T BE...

A ROBOT CAN DO WHATEVER IT'S ORDERED TO, ROBERTO...

NO, IT *CAN'T!!* TAKE THAT *BACK!*

WELL, THE POLICE AGENCY'S PUT OUT A NATION-WIDE WARRANT FOR ASTRO'S *ARREST.*

I CAN'T *BE-LIEVE* THIS!

I'M GOING TO GO SOUTH A BIT, ROBERTO. WITH HAKONE HAVING BEEN ATTACKED, MY PLANS ARE IN A SHAMBLES, AND I'VE GOT WORK TO DO...

B-BUT IF YOU LEAVE NOW, FATHER, YOU'LL JUST BE FALLING INTO ZZZ'S *TRAP!*

I KNOW... BUT I CAN'T LET THEM ATTACK ME HERE...

DON'T WORRY, SON... I'M NOT LIKE PRIME MINISTER HAKONE...

HA HA HA!

VROAR

ROAR

SOMETHING'S WRONG... I'M GETTING AN INSTRUMENT READING THAT SAYS WE'RE ONE PASSENGER OVERWEIGHT...

MAYBE WE'VE GOT A *STOW-AWAY*...

THAT'D BE A *DISASTER!*

SURE ENOUGH!

YOU ALL RIGHT, SON?

I'M SORRY... I STOWED AWAY 'CUZ I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MY *FATHER*...

HMPH

BUT IF THE ZZZ GANG APPEARS, I'M READY TO *FIGHT!* SO TAKE ME TO THEM!

IT IS TOO LATE TO LAND HIM...

LISTEN, ROBERTO, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE WHERE WE'RE GOING...

HALP...!

UHNGH

ROBERT!

ROBERTO...

UMNGH...

WH... WHERE AM I...?

ARE YOU AWAKE, ROBERT?

WHA?! A PEG LEG!!

SORRY 'BOUT THE OTHER NIGHT... IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE THE SON OF *PRESIDENT LYON*, I WOULDN'T HAVE ACTED THAT WAY...

SO THIS IS *ZZZ'S SECRET BASE*...

I'M A CAPTIVE, BUT WHERE'S MY FATHER?

NOT TO WORRY, SONNY. MR. LYON IS A VERY IMPORTANT MAN TO US, AND WE'RE TAKING *GOOD* CARE OF HIM...

BUT COME THIS WAY... OUR *FUHRER* WANTS TO *MEET* YOU...

XYROΦOЯ ƵDTPSGJBAT LOHOKLA

CREAK

I AM *FUHRER ZZZ!*

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT *ROBERTO LYON,* FUHRER...

HAVE A SEAT, ROBERTO...

DON'T WORRY... YOUR FATHER'S FINE, BUT I'D LIKE TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU...

YOU *SCOUNDREL!* JUST GIVE ME BACK MY FATHER!!

NOW, NOW, NOW, ROBERTO... YOU MAY THINK I'M A BAD GUY...

...BUT I'M IN FAVOR OF *PEACE!*

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT THE ZZZ GANG IS ALL ABOUT...

"PEACE WILL NEVER COME TO THE WORLD AS IT IS NOW, ROBERTO... NOT UNTIL EARTH IS *DESTROYED*.... WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE HUMANS ARE *TOO SMART* FOR THEIR *OWN GOOD.* LOOK AT THE PAST... PEOPLE WERE MORE RELAXED AND LIVED SIMPLY. SO IN ORDER TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE OF EARTH BACK TO PEACE, WE NEED TO MAKE PEOPLE MORE *STUPID.* IT'S THE *ONLY SOLUTION!* WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE POLITICIANS AND SCIENTISTS FROM MAKING EVER-MORE-SOPHISTICATED *KILLING MACHINES!*"

THIS IS WHAT THE ZZZ GANG IS TRYING TO DO. UNDER-STAND?

WE'D LIKE YOU AND YOUR FATHER TO *COOPER-ATE* WITH US, ROBERTO...

GOSH... YOU SMOKE THE SAME KIND OF *CIGAR* AS MY FATHER! AND YOU SMOKE IT THE *SAME WAY,* TOO!

WAIT A MINUTE! I GET IT! YOU... YOU ARE MY FATHER, RIGHT? I KNOW YOU ARE!!

D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ROBERT!

BRING IN MR. LYON!

AND ALL OF YOU CAN LEAVE NOW...

YESSIR!

F-F... *FATHER !!*

ROBERTO!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!!

ROBERTO... MY *DEAR* SON...

IF WE STAY HERE THEY'LL MAKE US BREATHE THAT GAS, FATHER... WE'VE GOT TO *ESCAPE*...

THE FUHRER ASKED ME TO COOPERATE WITH HIM, BUT I SAID I NEVER WOULD!

HE SAID THE SAME THING TO ME, SON... HE'S A REAL MYSTERY...

I'VE DECIDED I'VE GOT TO RETHINK MY IDEA OF ZZZ...

WH-*WHAT?!* YOU DON'T MEAN YOU'D *JOIN* ZZZ, DO YOU, FATHER?!

TO STAY ALIVE, I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE, SON...

NO! FATHER, YOU'RE *WRONG!* YOU'RE *WRONG!*

DON'T FEEL SO BAD, ROBERTO... WE'RE TREATING YOU TO A FABULOUS MEAL. WE MAY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE HERE, BUT WE EAT *FIRST CLASS!*

WHA?! A MESSAGE FROM ASTRO!

Dear Robert,

This note's from me, Astro. I'm secretly hiding here in the ZZZ fortress, trying to figure out what ZZZ is up to! Fuhrer ZZZ is not who you think he is, Roberto... hang in there... I'm going to smash the place where they have the gas, and borrow a small airplane!

SO HE'S GOING TO DESTROY THE GAS!

WONDER HOW ASTRO GOT THIS TO ME? COULD HE BE HERE ON THE ISLAND? MAYBE MASQUERADING AS A *COOK?*

GENTLEMEN... HAVING TAKEN CARE OF PRIME MINISTER HAKONE, THERE'S NO ONE LEFT IN JAPAN...

...TO GIVE US ANY TROUBLE...

BOSS, I SAY WE NEXT DEAL WITH GENERAL *CAGLIOSTRO* OF *ARGENTINA!* BUT WAIT, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO FOR *MALLER*, THE NEW *PRES-IDENT OF FRANCE!*

HMPH!* THERE'S NO END TO THIS, THOUGH!

WE'LL *NEVER* RUN OUT OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO TURN INTO IDIOTS!

WHY NOT MAKE *EVERYONE* ON EARTH INHALE THE GAS?

GOSH, I HOPE THIS MEETING ENDS SOON!

NO WAY...

NO WAY, JOSE...

SO, GENTLEMEN, I'LL READ YOU OUR DECISION...

FINALLY!

GOSH, I'M *EXHAUSTED!*

I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY HIDING BEHIND THE STATUE IN THE FUHRER'S ROOM...

...SO NOW I KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO! TONIGHT I'VE GOTTA FIND OUT WHERE THEY KEEP THE *GAS!*

YOU'VE GOT TO RECONSIDER, FATHER... WE *CAN* ESCAPE, I *KNOW* IT!

ASTRO'S ON THE ISLAND!

WHAT?! *ASTRO*?!

HE'S HIDING SOMEWHERE *HERE*?!

YES, I GOT THIS SECRET MESSAGE FROM HIM!

HM...

HE SAYS HE'S LOOKING FOR THE SOURCE OF THE GAS, TO *DESTROY* IT! THEN, BEFORE THE ZZZ GANG MEMBERS CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO, HE'S GONNA STEAL A LIGHT *AIRPLANE!*

REALLY? *THAT* MAKES ME FEEL BETTER...

MAYBE THE GAS COMES FROM HERE... LOOK AT ALL THESE DEAD BUGS...

AND THE GRASS IS DEAD HERE, TOO...

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TOLD ME ABOUT THIS...

I'LL SET MY HEARING TO 1000X...

VOMP VOMP VOMP COUGH COUH GLUB GLUB GLUB ROAR

THAT SOUND...

FOMP FOMP FOMP

... MUST BE COMING FROM *HERE*...

DUNNO HOW THICK THESE WALLS ARE, BUT...

...*I'LL FIND OUT!*

SMASH

WHAT THE--?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

I WENT EASY ON YOU GUYS, SO DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE FINE...

THAT'S THE PLACE!!

FIRST, I'LL SMASH THESE GAS PIPE-LINES...

STOP, ASTRO BOY... OR THE BOY'S *FINISHED!* HEH HEH HEH!

UH OH... HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, ASTRO!!

JUST WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD! NO FUNNY BUSINESS!

I'M SORRY 'BOUT THIS ASTRO...

OKAY, ASTRO... I WANT *YOU* TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THIS TOWER...

ELECTRO-MAG DISSOLVER TOWER

IF I LET ASTRO LIVE, ROBERTO, WE'LL HAVE NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS... BUT ZAPPING A ROBOT'S ELECTRO BRAIN'S NOT EVEN MURDER...

ASTRO !!!

THEY WANT TO *DESTROY* ME!!

ROBERTO! I'M GONNA TELL YOU WHO FUHRER ZZZ *REALLY* IS, OKAY?!!!

CHANK

ZAP ZAP ZAP CRACKLE ZAP

STOP! ASTRO'S BEING *DESTROYED!!*

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, ROBERTO... THIS ISN'T *MURDER*... ASTRO'S A *ROBOT*, SO HE CAN BE REPAIRED AND USED AGAIN...

ZZZ! YOU *SCOUN-DREL!!*

LOOK! HERE HE COMES!

THUD

STAND UP...

SEE? HE'S A SHELL OF HIS FORMER SELF... HE'LL DO ANYTHING I SAY NOW!

TOSS HIM IN THE WAREHOUSE, MEN...

POOR ASTRO...

I'LL LET YOU SEE YOUR FATHER ONE MORE TIME, ROBERTO...

I WANT YOU TO *HELP* ME. I WANT YOU TO PERSUADE YOUR FATHER TO *COOPERATE* WITH ME! OKAY?

IF HE AGREES, I'LL SEND YOU BOTH BACK TO JAPAN IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. BUT IF HE REFUSES...

...YOU WILL HAVE *FAILED*, AND YOUR FATHER'LL BE AS GOOD AS *DEAD!*

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO UNMASK HIM!

GIMME THIS!

FWP

DON'T TRY ANYTHING *STUPID*, ROBERTO. SEEING MY FACE WON'T HELP YOU!!

HA HA HA HA

CLACK- CLACK CLACK

WELL, SONNY, I SEE SOMEBODY PUT EYE-BALL BLOCKERS ON YOU... DON'T WORRY, THEY COME OFF EASY... HE DOES IT TO EVERYONE WHO TRIES TO LOOK AT HIS FACE...

SEE?

FWP FWP

CHEER UP, THOUGH, IT'S TIME FOR *DINNER*...

I'M NOT HUNGRY...

AH, BUT IF YOU DON'T EAT THE FUHRER'LL *WORRY*...

WITH ASTRO IN THE CONDITION HE'S IN...

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

IT ALL SEEMS SO *HOPE-LESS*...

FATHER! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! ZZZ SAID HE'D *KILL* YOU IF YOU DON'T *COOPERATE!*

REALLY? WELL, I'M RESIGNED TO MY FATE, SON. YOU SHOULD JUST DO AS YOU SEE FIT NOW...

FAREWELL, ROBERTO...

FATHER!!

WAIT! WAIT!

I GIVE UP! I'LL DO WHATEVER ZZZ SAYS!

I'M GOING TO COOPERATE WITH ZZZ, FATHER! YOU'VE GOT TO, TOO!!

THREE DAYS LATER...

THANK YOU BOTH SO MUCH FOR AGREEING TO WORK WITH US. IN RETURN, WE'LL LET YOU GO HOME NOW... JUST DON'T FORGET OUR *AGREEMENT*...

ALL ON BOARD...

.....
.....

LOOK, FATHER, THE FUHRER'S WAVING GOODBYE...

VOOOSH

KEEP YOUR BLINDFOLDS ON UNTIL WE LAND IN JAPAN...

IT MAY *LOOK* LIKE I'VE GIVEN UP...

BUT JUST WAIT... JUST *WAIT*...

WE'LL BE ARRIVING IN JAPAN ANY MINUTE NOW... DON'T FORGET, WE'LL HAVE YOU UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE...

WHAT THE--?!

SINBASHI AVE

LO AND BEHOLD, WE'RE BACK IN *TOKYO!*

THIS IS THE IMPERIAL HOTEL... WATCH YOUR STEP!

WE'VE GOTTA *CALL* SOMEONE, FATHER!

NO...

I CAN'T BREAK MY PROMISE TO ZZZ, ROBERTO...

B-BUT FATHER...

BECAUSE OF THEIR BLINDFOLDS, NEITHER PRESIDENT LYON NOR HIS SON ROBERTO HAD ANY IDEA WHERE ZZZ HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED. BUT MEANWHILE, AT THOSE SAME HEADQUARTERS, SOMETHING VERY ODD HAD ALREADY HAPPENED...

THIS IS THE WAREHOUSE WHERE ASTRO WAS TOSSED...

HMPH... LOOKS LIKE ANY OLD LIFELESS, MECHANICAL *DOLL*...

WITH THE FUHRER, PRESIDENT LYON, AND ROBERTO ALL OFF VISITING JAPAN, I CAN FINALLY TAKE IT EASY TONIGHT...

FWP

CRASH

HALP! ASTRO'S *ALIVE!!*

B-BUT I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE *BROKEN!!*

SURPRISE!! I WAS JUST *PRETENDING!* THE MOMENT I WAS ON THE ELECTRO-MAG DISSOLVER MACHINE...

"...I GRABBED ONTO THE CEILING AND SAVED MYSELF. I PRETENDED TO BE BROKEN BECAUSE ROBERTO WAS A HOSTAGE!"

BUT I DON'T NEED TO PRETEND ANY MORE!

TIME TO SMASH THESE GAS PIPES AGAIN!

FATHER... YOU HAVE TO MEET GENERAL CAGLIOSTRO TOMORROW, RIGHT?

I BET ZZZ'S GONNA TRY TO USE YOU IN SOME EVIL PLOT...

.....
.....

HE'LL TRY TO DESTROY THE GENERAL! I JUST KNOW IT!

NOW, ROBERTO... DON'T FORGET OUR PROMISE TO ZZZ...

WE MUSTN'T INTERFERE WITH HIM...

I FEEL TERRIBLE, THOUGH, IF WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO *STOP* HIM!

WHY CAN'T WE GO BACK ON OUR WORD TO ZZZ?!

'CAUSE A PROMISE IS A PROMISE, KID...

...AND IT'S A REALLY *BAD IDEA* TO MAKE THE FUHRER ANGRY... *HEH HEH...*

ABOUT THE MEETING TOMORROW ITH CAGLIOSTRO, MR. LYON...

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO GO...

INSTEAD, THE *FUHRER* WILL GO, DISGUISED AS YOU!

WE WANT YOU TO SPEND THE WHOLE DAY IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM HERE INSTEAD ...

IS THAT ZZZ'S ORDER?

INDEED, IT *IS*!

I BET THEY'RE GONNA SPRAY THE GENERAL WITH *GAS*, FATHER!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, ROBERTO, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE TO ZZZ!!

WAIT!!

STOP, ROBERTO! *COME BACK!!*

WAIT, MISTER!! *WAIT!*

WHAT'S UP, KID?

THIS IS WHAT'S UP! I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHERE THE ZZZ HEADQUARTERS IS!!

WHOOPS! YOU'RE A PLUCKY KID...

IN JAPANESE WE CALL THAT *HIPPU NO YUU*... BEING *FOOLHARDY*, KID!

STOP, ROBERTO! I BEG YOU, *STOP!*

F.-FATHER! YOU *COWARD!*

STOP, OR I'LL SKEWER HIM WITH MY KNIFE, KID!

GWA HA HA HA! HA HA!

GWA HA HA HA! HEE HEE!

SLAM

TAKE THIS!

VOOSH

FINALLY, WE CATCH ONE OF ZZZ'S SPYS!

GET UP, YOU *SCOUNDREL!*

WHA ?!

EEEK! HE'S DEAD!

BLAST IT! HE BIT DOWN ON A *POISON PILL* IMPLANTED IN HIS FALSE TEETH!

THE SORT OF THING I'D EXPECT FROM A ZZZ SPY...

BUT NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO LEARN ANYTHING FROM HIM...

ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO HAVE A WORD WITH *YOU,* MR. PRESIDENT...

WHY'S THE FAMOUS PRESIDENT LYON, WHO'S TRYING TO FORM AN EARTH FEDERATION, TOO *AFRAID* TO TALK ABOUT THE ZZZ GANG?! *EH?*

I'LL TELL YOU!! TOMORROW GENERAL CAGLIOSTRO OF ARGENTINA IS SCHEDULED TO MEET MY FATHER IN THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUILDING, BUT HE'LL REALLY BE MEETING *ZZZ* THERE, *DISGUISED* AS MY FATHER!

WHAT?! ZZZ'LL BE THERE? IN *DISGUISE?!*

HM... THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WEIRD ABOUT THIS...

I KNOW! *HA HA!* *NOW* I GET IT! WHAT AN *IDIOT* I'VE BEEN ALL ALONG! *HA HA HA!*

MR. MUSTACHIO! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! *PLEASE!*

HA HA! I FIGURED IT OUT, INSPECTOR! HA HA HA!

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA! YOU'VE GOT TO *ARREST PRESIDENT LYON!*

LYON?!! WHY?

LYON'S PROBABLY *ZZZ!* GET IT?! I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IT ALL MAKES *SENSE!*

IT EXPLAINS *EVERYTHING!* TO FORM AN EARTH FEDERATION, LYON PUTS TOGETHER THE ZZZ GANG AND ELIMINATES HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES ONE BY ONE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S TOO MUCH, MUSTACHIO ...

LISTEN, INSPECTOR... NOW'S YOUR *CHANCE!* YOU'VE GOT TO ARREST *LYON!!*

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA, SIR!

WHAT IS IT, MAN?!

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE OFF THE MARK, MUSTACHIO...

LYON'S APPARENTLY JUST BEEN ATTACKED, BY FUHRER ZZZ!!

WHA- WHA- WHA- WHA- WHA- *WHA?!*

To President Lyon... you broke your promise, and betrayed me, the Fuhrer! This is your reward! Be thankful we didn't use any gas! -- zzz

F- *FATHER !!!*

To President Lyon... you broke your promise, and betrayed me, the Fuhrer! This is your reward! Be thankful we didn't use any gas! -- zzz

SO, MUSTACHIO... LYON HIMSELF WAS FINALLY ATTACKED...

.....
.....
.....

THAT IDIOT...

THAT'LL TEACH HIM NOT TO DEFY THE FUHRER!

UH OH! IT'S ASTRO BOY!

STOP, ZZZ!

THIS TIME I'M REALLY, REALLY GOING TO CATCH YOU!

YIKES! I THOUGHT WE HEAVED HIM BROKEN INTO OUR WAREHOUSE!

I WAS JUST PRETENDING TO BE BROKEN!!

BUT I SMASHED THE GAS PIPELINES ON THE ISLAND, SO YOUR HENCHMEN ARE INHALING IT RIGHT NOW! IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO SURRENDER!

BLASTED ROBOT! I SHOULD NEVER'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIM!

NO, ZZZ! BAD GUYS ARE DESTINED TO LOSE!

DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE!

I'M HEADING BACK TO THE CITY, SIR!

GOOD! STEP ON IT!!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU 'TIL MY ENERGY RUNS OUT, ZZZ!

HELLO... POLICE? WE JUST SAW ASTRO BOY, WHO'S GOT THAT REWARD ON HIS HEAD, FLYING DOWN KOSHUKAIDO HIGHWAY, HEADED FOR TOKYO!

TANASHI POLICE STATION HERE! WE'VE GOT A REPORT OF ASTRO BOY, WHO'S WANTED... HE'S HEADED SOUTHEAST...

HE'S FLYING, SO THE GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCES ARE USELESS! SEND UP AIR FORCE JETS!

THIS THE ATSUGI AIRBASE? WE NEED FIGHTERS MOBILIZED!

IT'S ASTRO, WHO ATTACKED PRIME MINISTER HAKONE! WE HAVE HIM IN OUR SIGHTS!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S PURSUING A CAR!

ASTRO BOY! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHA P!

WAIT A MOMENT! I'VE GOTTA CATCH THAT CAR!

SAVE YOUR EXCUSES FOR LATER, ASTRO BOY!

TRY 'N RESIST, WILL YOU?

ANY MORE TROUBLE, AND WE'LL SMASH YOUR ATOMIC BRAIN!

NO!

ZZZ IS TRULY *EVIL*... DID YOU SEE HOW UPSET YOUNG *ROBERTO* WAS?

RRRING

YUP, YUP, NAKAMURA HERE... *INSPECTOR TAWASHI?! WHAT?!* I'LL BE RIGHT THERE...

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS, BUT THEY'VE APPARENTLY *CAUGHT ASTRO!*

MR. MUSTACHIO!!

ASTRO...

I FEEL TERRIBLE, TEACHER... I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CATCH ZZZ, BUT NOBODY *BELIEVES* ME!

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO... I BELIEVE YOU! BUT WHERE'VE YOU *BEEN* ALL THIS TIME? AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT *ZZZ?*

ROBERTO KNOWS EVERYTHING! YOU'VE GOTTA LET ME SEE HIM...

HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT LET'S GO!

HEY! YOU CAN'T TAKE A WITNESS AWAY ON YOUR OWN, MUSTACHIO!

WELL, COME WITH US, THEN!

IF WE CAN JUST GET ROBERTO'S TESTIMONY, WE MIGHT SOLVE THIS CASE!

SO THAT'S THE STORY, MR. MUSTACHIO... MY FATHER AND I HAD TO OBEY ZZZ... IT'S OUR FAULT...

SO *THAT'S* WHAT HAPPENED... AND ASTRO'S BEEN AT THE SECRET BASE ALL THIS TIME...

ASTRO, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE *APOLOGIES!*

DON'T WORRY, MR. TAWASHI... EVERYTHING'S OKAY...

AND ASTRO'S ALREADY DESTROYED ZZZ'S *SECRET BASE!*

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO CATCH *ZZZ!*

...AND I THINK HE'S STILL IN *TOKYO!*

.....
.....
.....

LISTEN, ASTRO... YOU SAW ZZZ'S REAL FACE AT HIS BASE, RIGHT?

YEAH, I DID... BUT IT'S STRANGE...

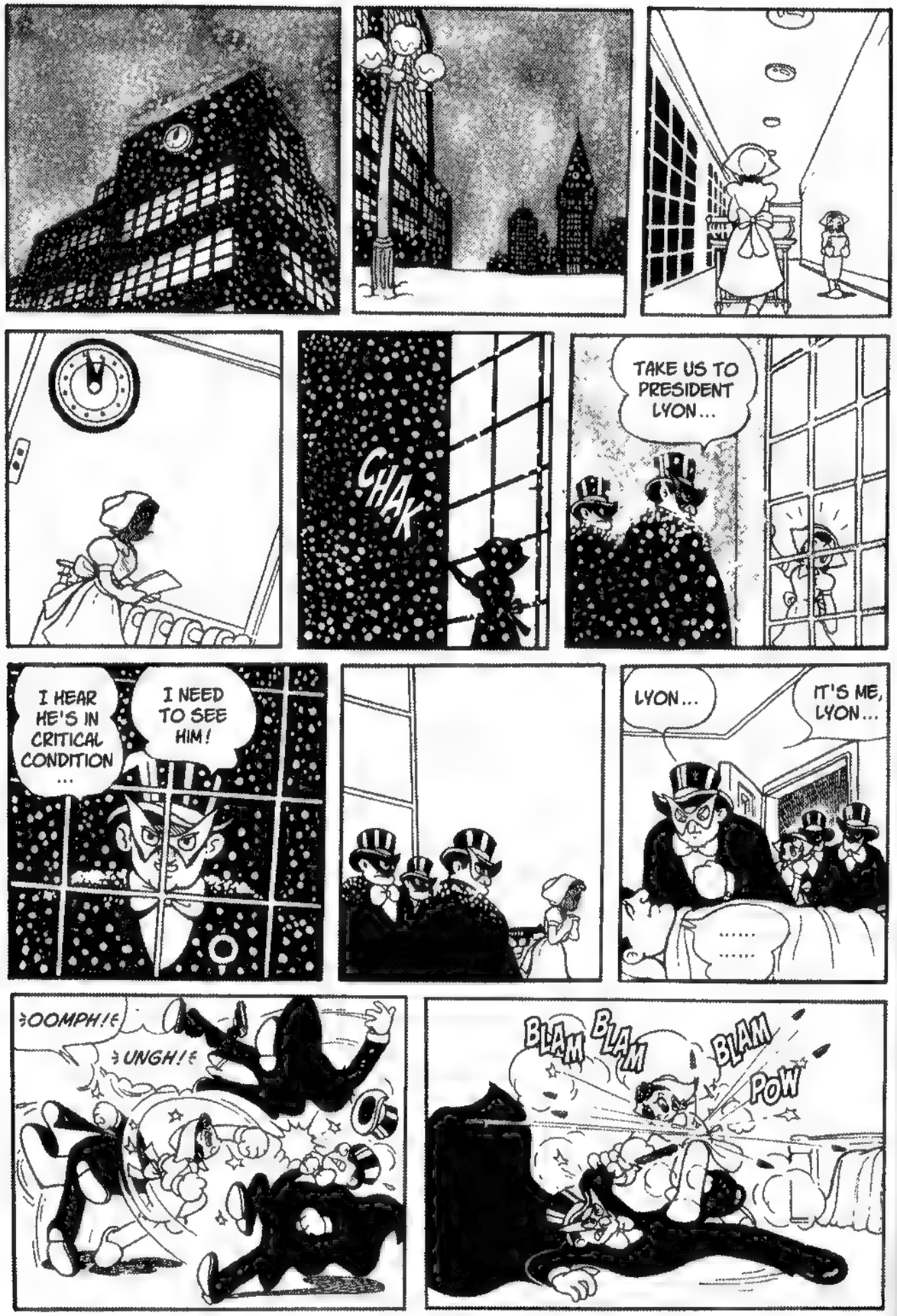
WHAT'S STRANGE?

IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S FACE, ROBERTO... BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR FATHER COULD BE ZZZ!

HM... I'VE GOT AN *IDEA*...

WE NEED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE HOSPITAL... TO ANNOUNCE TO NEWSPAPERS AND THE RADIO THAT PRESIDENT LYON IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION... THAT HE COULD DIE *ANY MINUTE*...

IF WE DO THAT, AND IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, ZZZ'LL SHOW HIS TRUE FACE THIS EVENING.


CHAK
TAKE US TO PRESIDENT LYON...
I HEAR HE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION ...
I NEED TO SEE HIM!
LYON...
IT'S ME, LYON...
.....
.....
OOMPH!
UNGH!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
POW

WHAT THE --?! ASTRO BOY... P!
WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T ZZZ!
WE THOUGHT YOU'D COME, SO WE USED ROBOTS FOR NURSES!
GENTLEMEN, YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE THE TRUE FACE OF ZZZ!
HERE!
WHA P!
WHA P!
PRESIDENT LYON P!
NO... I'M HIS TWIN BROTHER...
TWIN BRO-THER P!
RIGHT. WHEN MY BROTHER BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE EARTH FEDERATION, I PLANNED TO BLACKMAIL HIM AND RULE THE WORLD! BUT HE BETRAYED ME! I TOOK REVENGE ON HIM, USING A KNIFE, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM...
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME... IS HE IN CRITICAL CONDITION?! IS HE MORTALLY WOUNDED?
RELAX... HE'LL BE FINE... THIS WAS ALL TO TRAP YOU, ZZZ! IF YOU WERE HIS BROTHER, I KNEW YOU'D COME...
SO YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT AFTER ALL, LYON...
FORGIVE ME, LYON! FORGIVE ME!! IT'S ALL MY FAULT...

THE FACE IN THE ROCK

First serialized from February to March 1966
in *Tetsuwan Atom Club* magazine.

WHEN ASTRO BOY WAS BROADCAST ON TELEVISION IN JAPAN...

THERE WAS A GROUP CALLED THE "FRIENDS OF ASTRO BOY"... AND IT ISSUED THIS MAGAZINE, CALLED *THE ASTRO BOY CLUB.*

THIS IS WHERE "THE FACE IN THE ROCK" FIRST APPEARED...

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE FAMOUS TODAY... SAKYO KOMATSU, YASUTAKA TSUTSUI, ARITSUNE TOYOTA, FUJIKO-FUJIO, HIDEO OHARA, TOSHIO AIJIMA, MASAMI FUKUSHIMA, TAKU MAYUMURA, SHOTARO ISHIMORI, RYU MITSUSE, SAKYO KOMATSU, YOICHI TAKASHI...

IN RETROSPECT, IT WAS AN AMAZINGLY LAVISH MAGAZINE...

ASTRO BOY CLUB

WHEN THE TV BROADCASTS OF *ASTRO BOY* ENDED...

...THIS MAGAZINE WAS REDESIGNED AND LAUNCHED, DEDICATED TO ADVANCING MANGA.

IT WAS CALLED *COM!*

COM

NOW ON THIS SIDE OF THE BUS, FOLKS, WE HAVE THE FAMOUS BOULDER KNOWN AS "***THE FACE IN THE ROCK***," CARVED THE WAY YOU SEE IT BY THE WIND AND RAIN...

IN OLDEN TIMES, SUPERSTITION SAID IT WAS CARVED BY A ***GOBLIN*** OR THAT A ***WITCH*** HAD TURNED INTO STONE...

TODAY, OF COURSE, FEW PEOPLE BELIEVE THE VARIOUS LEGENDS SURROUNDING THE BOULDER.

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING LEGENDS OF ALL SAYS THAT IF THE BOULDER-FACE EVER TURNS FROM FACING ***EAST*** TO THE ***WEST,*** THE VILLAGE NEARBY WILL BE ***DESTROYED***...

WHAT A FUNNY BOULDER...

TEE HEE

THE MORE I LOOK AT IT, THE FUNNIER IT LOOKS...

SURE IS DONE WELL, THOUGH ...

HEY!

THIS IS WEIRD... THE LAST TIME I SHOT A PICTURE OF THIS BOULDER THROUGH THE PINE TREES, I COULD ONLY SEE THE FACE IN *PROFILE*...

THIS TIME, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TURNED MORE TOWARDS *ME*...

YOU GOTTA BE JOKING, MR. MUSTACHIO... YOU THINK A BOULDER THAT BIG COULD CHANGE DIRECTION?

HMM...

I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT...

GOSH, THE MORE I LOOK AT THIS FACE, THE FUNNIER IT SEEMS...

HM... IT *DOES* LOOK LIKE THE BOULDER HAS MOVED...

BUT IF SOMEBODY WANTED TO MOVE THIS AS A JOKE, THEY'D HAVE TO HAVE A TON OF MONEY TO DO IT...

WAIT! I HEAR SOMEONE COMING!

SHWI SHWEI

IT LOOKS LIKE A *FIREBALL!!*

FUUU FUUU

PEEL

OH, GREAT STONE FACE... TURN YOUR FACE... TURN IT TO THE *WEST*...

WHA?

ZIP

STOP! WAIT!!

WHO ARE YOU!?

WHOOOOSH

KABAAAM

WHISH SWHISH

BLAST IT!

GOTCHA BY THE LEGS!!

GOTCHA... AND...

BOOOM

... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU EXPLODE...

BOOM

... I'M *NOT* GONNA LET YOU GO!

KABOOM

KAPHOOSH

LEMME GO... I GIVE UP... LEMME *GO!*

I'M ASTRO... YOU'RE A ROBOT, TOO, RIGHT? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'M THE *FIRE-BALL KID*...

FIREBALL KID?! THAT'S A NICKNAME? WHAT'S YOUR *REAL* NAME?

I AIN'T GOT NO REAL NAME. PEOPLE JUST CALL ME THE FIREBALL KID!

WHO MADE YOU?

.....
.....

YOU TOLD THAT BOULDER TO TURN WEST, RIGHT?

WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

.....
.....

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL ANYONE!!

HEY, *FIREBALL!* WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE!!

VOOOSH VOOOSH

YOU MUSTN'T MAKE FUN OF FIREBALL, SONNY... HE'S REALLY A *PROBLEM CHILD*...

B... BUT HE'S A *ROBOT*, RIGHT?

HE'S A ROBOT, BUT EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE *HATES* HIM...

MISTER, THE FACE ON THAT BOULDER'S GRADUALLY TURNING WEST, RIGHT? WELL, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND...

INDEED, IT IS TURNING SOMEWHAT WEST... BUT THE BACK OF IT'S TURNING *EAST!*

YOU REALLY THINK SOMETHING *BAD* WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE BOULDER FACES WEST? NOBODY BELIEVES THAT SILLY SUPERSTITION ANYMORE... FIRST OF ALL, IT DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHETHER THE BACK OR THE FRONT WOULD BE FACING WEST...

LIKE A DOG, IF THE FACE FACES WEST, THE TAIL FACES EAST!

I DUNNO WHAT KIND OF ROBOT YOU ARE, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO GET *HYSTERICAL* ABOUT THIS...

ME? OH, I'M THE HEAD OF THE LOCAL VILLAGE...

WHAT A WEIRD VILLAGE... MOST OF THE HOUSES ARE *DESERTED!*

SAY, LADY... HOW COME THERE ARE SO MANY *VACANT HOUSES?*

CIGARETTES

VACANT HOUSES? WELL, SONNY...

... WE'VE HAD SO MANY EARTH-QUAKES RECENTLY THAT EVERYONE'S RUN AWAY.

EARTH-QUAKES?

HAS THAT MAN BEEN THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE FOR A LONG TIME, LADY? SURE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT...

WHAT A CLEVER BOY YOU ARE... YOU'RE *QUITE RIGHT*...

HE DONATED A TON OF MONEY TO THE VILLAGE THREE YEARS AGO AND MANAGED TO BECOME THE HEAD OF IT... THEY SAY HE'S A REAL *IMPORTANT PERSON* BACK IN TOKYO...

THAT'S WHAT I SUSPECTED, LADY... HE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE HE WAS FROM THESE PARTS...

I'LL SAY, SONNY... HE SAID HE FIRST CAME HERE TO STUDY OUR "C'MON OUT" CAVE...

"C'MON OUT" CAVE?

"IT'S A CAVE DOWN THE ROAD A BIT... IF YOU GO DOWN THERE AND HOLLER, "*C'MON OUT!*" THEY SAY A GHOST'LL COME OUT..."

HEY, C'MON OUT!

FOLLOWING DRAWING IS NONSENSE!

KAZUO UMEZ

SHIGERU MIZUKI

GOSH... IT'S A REALLY OLD CAVE... WONDER IF THERE REALLY *IS* A GHOST IN HERE...

I'M NOT A HUMAN, THOUGH, SO NO OL' GHOST'S GONNA SCARE *ME*...

WHAT THE --?!

IT'S THE *FIREBALL KID!*

WONDER WHERE HE'S HIDING?

VOOSH VOOSH

WHOOOSH

FOUR THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THIS WAS THE TOMB OF A FAMOUS FAMILY NAMED *ERIBURI*... AND THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ALL KINDS OF *RICHES* BURIED HERE...

AS AN ARCHEOLOGIST, I FIGURED THIS OUT...

I'M GOING TO USE YOU TO HELP *DIG* HERE UNTIL I DISCOVER THE RICHES!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, YOU *IDIOT?!*

ASTRO BOY'S HERE, SIR! HE *SPOTTED* ME!!

ASTRO BOY? THAT'S THE ROBOT I MET AT THE BOULDER-FACE!

HERE, PUT YOUR HEAD AGAINST THIS WALL...

KABOOOM

HUH?!

HMPH... HE MUST BE HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS CAVE!! WELL, HE CAN DO AS HE DANG WELL PLEASES, BUT HE WON'T GET IN HERE...

WHAT I *DON'T* WANT HIM TO FIND IS THE *TREASURE ROOM!!*

UNDERSTAND? SO GET TO *WORK!!*

NOW *EXPLODE!* SMASH THE *WALL!*

KABOOM

WELL? DID YOU BLAST THROUGH THE WALL?

NAW, IT DIDN'T WORK. I ONLY BLEW UP HALF OF IT... THE ROCKS'RE TOO *HARD!*

YOU USELESS, PUNY ROBOT!! I NEVER SHOULD'VE MADE YOU!

BUT I'VE HELPED YOU TEAR UP THIS GRAVE SITE FORTY-EIGHT TIMES, MR. KIM!

♪SHH€... DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME!

CALL ME *VILLAGE HEAD-MAN!* UNDER-STAND?!

B-BUT YOU'RE *KIM SANKAKU,* WHO USED TO HEAD A BIG GANG, RIGHT?

FINALLY, I'VE *FOUND* YOU!

ASTRO!!

FIREBALL KID! YOU'VE GOTTA STOP! EVERY TIME YOU EXPLODE...

... A HUGE *EARTHQUAKE* OCCURS ABOVE GROUND! ALL THE VILLAGERS ARE *RUNNING AWAY!*

GO GET THAT ARROGANT ROBOT, FIREBALL!

KABOOM

STOP, FIREBALL! YOU'RE CAUSING *EARTH-QUAKES!*

CREAK SHUDDER CREAK

HEY, LOOK! THE FACE IS FACING *WEST!!*

IT'S A BAD OMEN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

CREAK CREAK

UH OH... IT'S THE BOULDER FACE!

CREAK CREAK SHUDDER

CRAACK

RUMBLE RUMBLE ROAR

OH, NO! IT'LL DESTROY THE VILLAGE!

SHOOMP

GRRR... BLAST IT!

EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE, *RUN* FOR IT! I'LL HOLD THE BOULDER BACK!

THIS THING WEIGHS TOO MUCH! EVEN WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER, I CAN BARELY STOP IT...

UH... I CAN FEEL MY ENERGY DRAINING AWAY...

I...I CAN'T HOLD IT ANYMORE...

'LEAST THE VILLAGERS WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE IN TIME!

CRUNCH

UH OH... IT'S ROLLING TOWARDS THE CAVE!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

KATHUNNNK

ROAR

AIEEE!!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

HMM... THIS WALL'S COLLAPSED! BUT IT'S GOT SOME *WRITING* ON IT!!

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS ANCIENT *ERIBURI* WRITING!

IT SAYS, "ANYONE WHO UNEARTHS AND STEALS THESE RICHES -- EVEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE -- WILL BE **CRUSHED** BY THE FACE IN THE ROCK!"

BLAST IT!

NOW I GET IT! THE BOULDER'S REALLY A SPECIALLY RIGGED **TRAP**, DESIGNED TO CRUSH **GRAVE ROBBERS!**

WELL, I'M KIM SANKAKU, AND I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYONE BURY **ME** ALIVE...

LISTEN, KIDDO, CAN YOU GET OUT OF HERE ON YOUR OWN?

YEAH, BUT IF I BLOW UP ANYMORE, THE **CEILING** WILL FALL IN!

IT'D BE **BETTER** FOR YOU TO BE **BURIED ALIVE**, MR. KIM... I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE THE BOULDER COLLAPSE...

WHAT?! YOU MEAN YOU KNEW THE BOULDER'S SECRET?!!

SURE... BUT YOU'RE A **BAD** HUMAN, SO I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO PUNISH YOU...

WHY YOU... YOU IMPUDENT ROBOT!

LEMME OUT OF HERE! **LEMME OUT!**

HAALP!

RUMBLE CRASH

ASTRO BOY?!

FIREBALL KID... I... I NEED SOME OF YOUR **ENERGY!**

.....
.....

MR. KIM MAY BE A BAD GUY, BUT HE'S A HUMAN AN' IT'S OUR **DUTY** TO HELP HIM!

NO!!

I DON'T WANNA HELP ANY BAD GUYS!

SEE YA **LATER**, ASTRO!

BLAST IT...

ASTRO, **YOU'VE** GOTTA HELP ME... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET ME OUT OF HERE NOW...

I... I'M OUT... OF **ENERGY**...

WAIT...

I HEAR SOMETHING! SOME-ONE'S YELLING!

HEY C'MON OUT! HEY C'MON OUT!

I HEAR A FAINT VOICE COMING FROM AN OPENING FIREBALL KID CREATED!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET OUT!
YOU GO AHEAD, MR. KIM!
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO WALK...
.....
.....
GRAB ONTO ME, ASTRO...
WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE TOGETHER...
YOU WERE RIGHT! THERE IS AN OPENING!
WE'RE SAVED!
FIREBALL KID! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I'M A QUIRKY ROBOT, ASTRO! SO I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU HERE! BUT WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOME DAY! FAREWELL!
YOU SAID FIREBALL WAS A PROBLEM BOY...
...BUT HE DID MAKE AN ESCAPE ROUTE FOR US!

SPACE PARASITES

First serialized from January to April 1962 in *Shonen* magazine.

PARASITIC PLANTS DON'T GROW ON THEIR OWN...

THEY ATTACH THEM-SELVES TO TREES AND SUCK NUTRIENTS FROM THEM TO LIVE...

THE EGGS OF PARASITE BEES...

... HATCH IN THE BODIES OF OTHER INSECTS, AND GROW UP LIVING OFF THE BODIES OF THEIR HOSTS...

THE INCIDENT IN THE NEXT EPISODE...

...DRAWS HEAVILY ON THIS IDEA...

GOSH, MISTER... WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SUCH A DESERTED PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS...?

ONE OF MY STUDENTS SUDDENLY GOT SICK...

BUT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE *NIGHT*... IN THE *MOUNTAINS*...

I KNOW, BUT WHEN PEOPLE ARE SICK, THEY'RE SICK, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE...

STOP! THIS IS WHERE HE LIVES!

SCREECH!

=PHEW= *THAT'S* A RELIEF. I WAS AFRAID THIS WAS GONNA BE A *CAR-JACKING!*

JUST WAIT HERE 'TIL I COME BACK...

Y-YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF *NOWHERE!*

WISH I'D EATEN A HUGE DINNER BEFORE COMING...

THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT MY LUCKY NIGHT...

WH-*WHAT?!* A BUSH IS MOVING THIS WAY, DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!!

MR. MUSTACHIO... IF YOU'RE HIDING IN HERE, COME OUT... THIS IS A REALLY BAD JOKE...

WAIT! THERE'S NOBODY INSIDE THE BUSH!!

HOLY COW...

THE BUSH WAS REALLY MOVING ON ITS *OWN!*

I'VE HAD *ENOUGH!*

SLAM

THIS PLACE IS *HAUNTED!*

BLASTED TAXI DRIVER TOOK OFF AND *LEFT* ME!!

WELL, I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE...

I'LL HAVE TO STAY AT MY PUPIL'S HOUSE ...

THAT'S IT THERE ...

PRETTY FANCY PLACE FOR THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...

BUZZZ

P.S.--DRAWN TOO SMALL ...

EHEM...

WHO'S THERE, AT THIS HOUR?

UM... HI, SIR... IS THIS *KYUTARO'S* PLACE? I'M HIS *TEACHER...*

BUT WHY'D YOU COME HERE?

WHY? BECAUSE YOUR SON SUDDENLY TOOK *ILL!* YOU'RE THE ONES WHO INFORMED ME ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

ILL? WHO'S ILL?

C'MON... IT'S YOUR OWN *SON,* KYUTARO!

AH, YES, *KYUTARO*... C'MON ON IN, THEN...

IS IT SERI-OUS?

KYUTARO?

NAW, NOTHING SERIOUS, EXCEPT THAT...

EEEK!

G-GO AWAY!

KYUTARO! IT'S *ME*, YOUR *TEACHER!*

YOU SURE WE'RE ALONE?

NOBODY ELSE HERE NOW...

KNOW WHAT, TEACHER? I FEEL LIKE MY MOM AND DAD AREN'T MY *REAL* MOM AND DAD... THEY SEEM *DIFFERENT*...

IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY'RE REALLY *MONSTERS*, TRYING TO *TRICK* ME!

HONEST... I'M SCARED TO EVEN LOOK AT THEM!

WELL, I MEET YOUR FOLKS AT THE PTA MEETINGS, KYUTARO, AND THEY SEEM NORMAL TO *ME*...

NO, THEY'RE TOTALLY *DIFFERENT!!* MY PAPA'S NOT MY REAL PAPA!

WELL, YOU GET SOME SLEEP, KYUTARO... WE CAN CHECK AGAIN TOMORROW...

SO I WIND UP STAYING HERE TONIGHT...

AND THE SUN'LL BE COMING UP SOON, BRIGHTENING THE SKY...

IF THE NIGHT SEEMS TOO SHORT, WELL, FOLKS, REMEMBER, THIS IS A *MANGA*...

GUESS I'LL GO TO THE STREAM TO WASH MY FACE...

BUT WHEN I GLANCE BELOW... *LO AND BEHOLD*...

WHA? WHAT ON EARTH IS *THAT?!*

"IT WAS SUCH A STRANGE SIGHT... SOME TREES WERE CRAWLING ABOUT ON THE GROUND, LIKE INCH WORMS..."

IT'S TRUE...

THE PLACE IS *HAUNTED!*

I... SAW IT, MADAM!

JUST WHAT *DID* YOU SEE, SIR?

I SAW *TREES*... CRAWLING ABOUT!

SURELY YOU MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING!

NO! IT SAW IT WITH MY OWN *EYES!*

I'VE GOTTA TELL *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!*

I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT...

YOU CAN'T?!

HE SAW IT, DEAR...

HE DID, EH?

WE'VE NO OTHER CHOICE ...

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'LL HAVE TO *KILL* HIM...

Y-Y-Y-YOU MUST BE *K-K-KIDDING!*

IT'S EITHER JOIN US OR BE KILLED, MUSTACHIO...

JOIN YOU? JOIN *WHO?!*

KYUTARO WAS RIGHT! YOU CAN'T BE HIS *REAL* PARENTS!

ARGH!

KABONK

RURURURURURURU!

HOLY COW! IT'S THE HAUNTED TREES AGAIN!

KERASH

AIEEE!

KYUT-ARO!!

WH-WHAT HAPPENED, TEACHER!?

Y-YOU WERE RIGHT! THIS PLACE IS *HAUNTED!!*

WE'VE GOTTA FIND A WAY TO *ESCAPE!!*

THE PHONE'S RINGING, TEACHER...

HOORAY!

HELLO, HELLO? HELLO GOODBYE HELLO?

HM... THIS PHONE'S ON THE FRITZ...

THAT'S 'CUZ YOU'VE GOT IT *UPSIDE DOWN!*

HEH HEH... YOU'RE RIGHT...

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA? MUSTACHIO HERE...

IT'S LIKE THIS, SORT OF, SEE... WE NEED YOU TO *RESCUE* US... *NOW!*

BAM

BAM

KABAAAM

KABAAAM

LOOK! THOSE TREES'RE AFTER US!!

THEY'RE *MON-STERS!*

KEER AAAK

WHEEE

WHEEE

WHEEE

WHEEE

CRACK CRACK CRACK

:HMPH!... THESE FALLEN TREES ARE BLOCKING THE ROAD!

OKAY, MEN, WE'LL HAVE TO CLEAR THE WAY WITH *FLAME THROWERS!*

VOOOSH

DRIVE RIGHT THROUGH THE FLAMES!!

ROAR CRACK WOOSH! CRACKLE CRACKLE

YIKES! THEY'RE SETTING THE WOODS ON *FIRE! HEY!* BE CAREFUL! THERE ARE REAL *HUMANS* HERE!

KOFF HACK

IT'S ONE DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER!

THEY'RE BACK THERE, MEN! *HURRY!* GET 'EM OUT!

WITH ALL THIS FIRE, IT'LL TAKE TIME, INSPECTOR...

ASTRO! WE'VE GOT AN *EMERGENCY!* WE NEED YOU HERE TO SAVE MR. *MUSTACHIO!!*

CRACK
WATCH OUT!!
HURRY! RUN FOR IT!!
MUST BE THE HOUSE THERE...
VOOSH
YAY!! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, ASTRO!
SMASH

WHY'D THEY LIGHT THE FOREST ON FIRE, TEACHER?
PROB'LY 'CAUSE THEY WANTED TO DRIVE OFF THE TREE MONSTERS...
TREE MON-STERS?!
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN YOU'D BE AMAZED IF YOU SAW THEM, ASTRO...
BUT WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
NOBODY KNOWS, ASTRO...
BLUBBLUBBLUBBLUBBLUBB
SPLOOOOSH
YIKES! WHAT'S GOING ON?!!

IT LOOKS LIKE A *FLYING SAUCER!!*

NORMALLY, I COULD CATCH UP TO IT EASILY...

BUT NOT NOW...

I'VE GOTTA LAND YOU TWO SAFELY FIRST!

NOW, TO CHECK THE SWAMP THAT SAUCER CAME OUT OF...

SPLASH VOOMPH

HM... THE ROCKS ON THE BOTTOM ARE WORN SMOOTH... THE SAUCER MUST'VE BEEN HIDDEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME...

I'M TELLING THE *TRUTH*, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA... *HONEST!* I WOULDN'T LIE TO YOU!

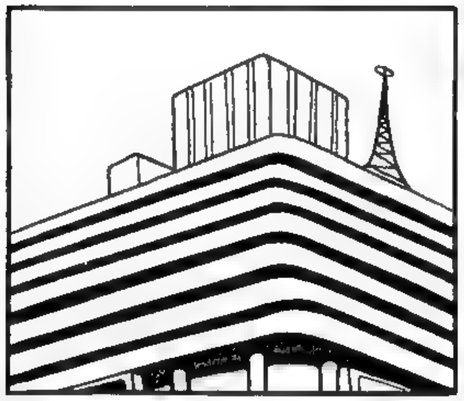
HMPH! TREES THAT *MOVE? FLYING SAUCERS?!* WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID, MUSTACHIO?

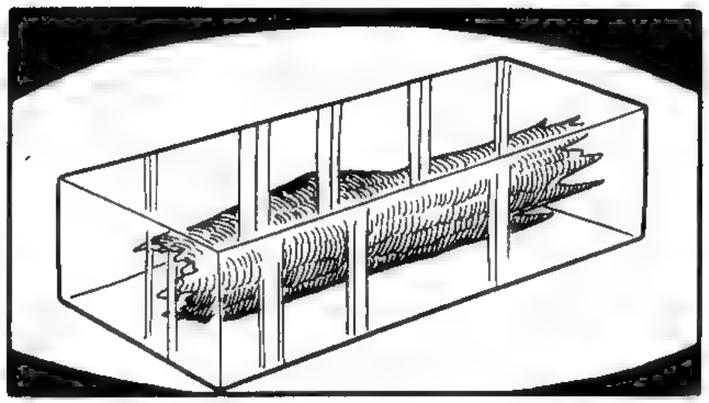
LET'S CHECK THE BURNED AREAS OF THE FOREST, INSPECTOR...

OKAY, MEN... COMB THE FOREST FOR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, EVEN AS MUCH AS A FLEA! THEY SAY WE'RE DEALING WITH *MONSTERS*...

HEY, SOMETHING'S MOVING...

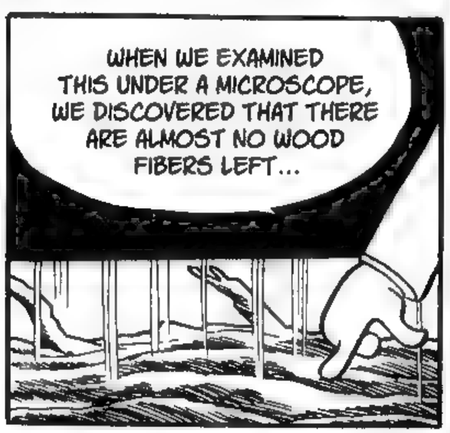
YIKES! WHAT IS IT?!

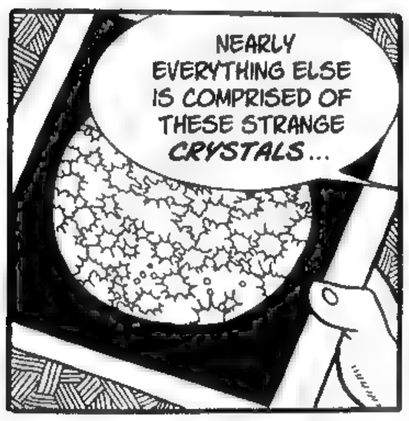




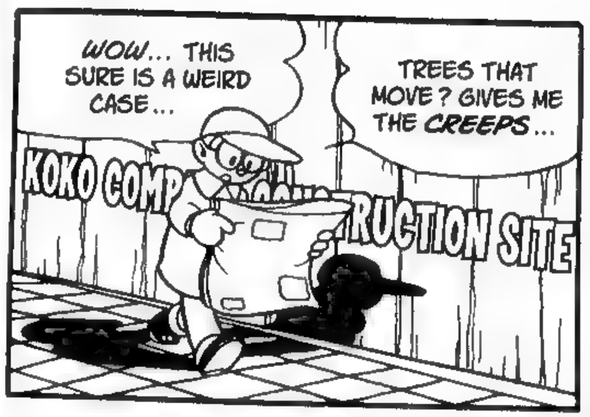
THIS IS REALLY QUITE EXTRAORDINARY, GENTLEMEN...

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE IS NOT THE REMNANTS OF A BURNED TREE...
IT'S ALIVE!


WHEN WE EXAMINED THIS UNDER A MICROSCOPE, WE DISCOVERED THAT THERE ARE ALMOST NO WOOD FIBERS LEFT...


NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE IS COMPRISED OF THESE STRANGE CRYSTALS...

...SO WHILE THIS LOG MAY ONCE HAVE BEEN A TREE...
...IT'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN ENTIRELY NEW AND MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE!!

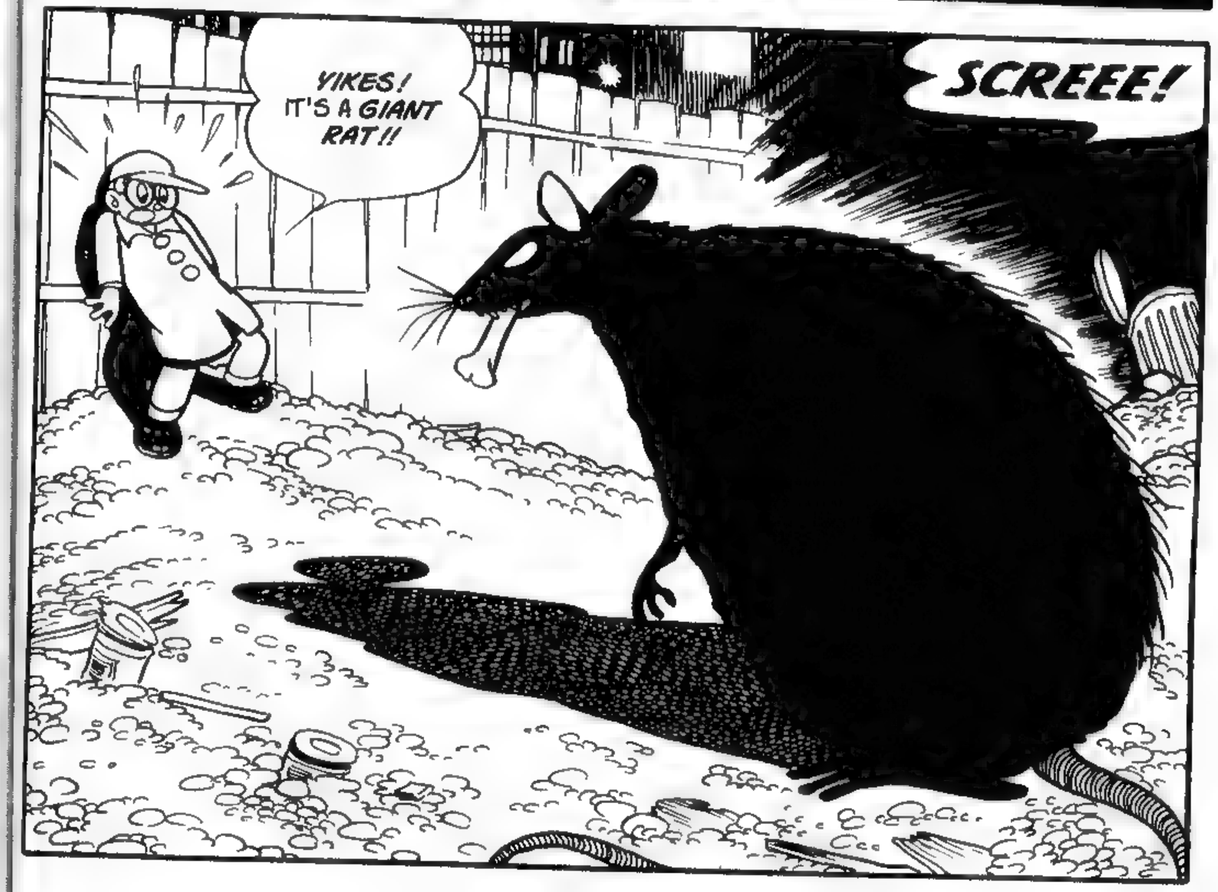

WOW... THIS SURE IS A WEIRD CASE...
TREES THAT MOVE? GIVES ME THE CREEPS...
KOKO COMP
RUCTION SITE

I BETTER GO HOME BEFORE I GET TOO SCARED...
MAYBE I CAN TAKE A SHORTCUT THROUGH HERE...

UH OH... IT'S PITCH-DARK!

WHAT A WEIRD SOUND...
SCRABBLE SCRATCH SCRATCH

HMPH... GUESS IT'S JUST A STRAY CAT OR SOMETHING, EATING GARBAGE...


YIKES! IT'S A GIANT RAT!!
SCREEE!

GULP...

RRRR

HALP!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

M-M-MISTER POLICEMAN!! I SAW IT!!

SAW WHAT?!

IT WAS A GIANT RAT! THIS BIG!!

HA HA! NOT THAT BIG, SONNY... MUST'VE BEEN A BEAR!!

B-BUT THERE AREN'T ANY BEARS AROUND HERE!!

HM. YOU'VE GOT A POINT...

YOU'D BETTER CONTACT HEAD-QUARTERS...

I'D BETTER CHECK FIRST...

I COULD GET IN TROUBLE IF IT'S NOTHING...

LOOK! THE RAT ATE THAT HOLE IN THE FENCE!!

!

AND CHEWED THIS POST BOX!

THIS IS NO ORDINARY INCIDENT!

I'VE GOT TO CALL THIS IN RIGHT AWAY...

YOW!

KERBLAM KERBLAM

SCREEE

AIEE!

MISTER POLICE-MAN!!

HARK! WHO GOETH THERE?

PRAY TELL!

FLASH

SCREEE

HE'S BEEN MURDER-ED!!!!

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS

NO. 1 INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

NO. 14 INVESTIGATIVE SECTION

NO. 2

NO. 306 INVESTIGATIVE OFFICE.

STRANGEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD OF IN MY LIFE...

WELL, IT'S DEFINITELY A RAT'S TAIL...

BUT THE MATERIAL IT'S MADE OF IS THE SAME AS THAT OF A DEAD TREE!

HOW COULD A RAT AND A TREE BE COMBINED INTO ONE?

THERE'LL BE A LOT OF DIFFERENT OPINIONS EXPRESSED ABOUT THIS AT THE EMERGENCY MEETING TOMORROW...

WONDER WHAT ON EARTH THIS THING REALLY IS... A LIVING CREATURE...? OR...?

EITHER WAY, I HAVE TO WRITE A REPORT FOR TOMORROW'S MEETING...

HEY! DON'T OPEN THE WINDOW LIKE THAT, ASTRO! THE WIND'LL SCATTER MY PAPERS!

SORRY, PROFESSOR... THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS TOO HEAVILY GUARDED RIGHT NOW...

THERE'S A HUGE COMMOTION NOW WHERE THE RAT'S BEEN... THEY'RE SCATTERING DDT AND RAT POISON ALL OVER THE PLACE...

BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE A *REAL* RAT, ASTRO...

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, ANYWAY, ASTRO?

HERE'S A COPY OF MY PRACTICE SCHOOL YEAR TEST, PROFESSOR...

IT'S GOT A SECTION ON "ROBOT DISEASES"...

WELL, ROBOTS DON'T REALLY GET SICK, ASTRO... BUT SOMETIMES THEY GO HAYWIRE IF THEIR ELECTRO BRAINS ARE OUT OF WHACK...

ARE THERE ANY BACTERIA OR ANY PARASITES THAT CAN INFECT ROBOTS?

HA HA HA... *PARASITES?* IN ROBOTS? NO WAY...

DID YOU SAY PARASITES?!

PARASITES... THAT'S SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT...

PARASITES... *HMMM*...

ASTRO! I *TOLD* YOU NOT TO OPEN THE WINDOW!

B-BUT I'M RIGHT *HERE*, PROFES-SOR...

WH-WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN COMING THROUGH MY WINDOW?!

HEH HEH... LET ME SIT DOWN... I'M VERY TIRED...

HOW COME YOU'RE HIDING YOUR FACE IN A FOOTBALL?

HOW CAN YOU EVEN BREATHE LIKE THAT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

HAH HAH... RELAX, RELAX...

WE HAVE COME FROM FAR, FAR AWAY... FROM THE DISTANT REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE...

IT MAY SEEM STRANGE TO YOU, BUT OUR BODIES ARE SO SMALL YOU HUMANS CANNOT EVEN SEE US...

WE HAVE TRAVELED FROM PLANET TO PLANET...

...ATTACHING OURSELVES TO THE LIFE FORMS WE FIND THERE...

"WE LANDED ON THIS PLANET, EARTH, A YEAR AGO, AND WE'RE BEEN LIVING HERE AS PARASITES EVER SINCE..."

YOU MAY FIND IT ODD...

...BUT WE CAN INHABIT ANYTHING AND TURN IT INTO OUR OWN BODIES...

"FIRST, WE LANDED ON A TEST SITE ON EARTH AND TRIED TO SEE WHAT WE COULD INHABIT AS PARASITES..."

"WE INFESTED TREES..."

"THE ANIMALS IN THE FORESTS..."

"... AND EVEN THE BIRDS..."

"WE EVEN TRIED INHABITING HUMANS..."

SO YOU INHABITED THIS RAT TAIL, TOO?!

THAT IS CORRECT...

WHY... WHY YOU *MONSTER!!*

YOU'VE GOT TO *STOP* THIS!!

NOW, NOW... WE DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A FIGHT WITH YOU EARTHLINGS...

ACTUALLY, WE HAD A FAVOR TO ASK YOU EARTHLINGS... YOU HAVE LOTS OF LIFE FORMS ON EARTH, SO WHY DON'T LET US HAVE SOME OF THOSE YOU DON'T NEED...?

YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE, AFTER ALL...

RATS ARE AN EXAMPLE! THEY'RE USELESS FOR MOST EARTHLINGS, RIGHT? WE'D LIKE TO INHABIT THEM AS PARASITES...

RATS MAY BE RATS, BUT THEY'RE STILL EARTH ANIMALS, AND BESIDES WHICH, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN DECIDE ALONE!!!

THERE'S A GENERAL MEETING TOMORROW OF THE JAPAN SCIENCE ACADEMY. I'LL ASK THERE, TOMORROW. HOW 'BOUT THAT?

VERY WELL. I'LL WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW, THEN.

IF THE ACADEMY AGREES, SEND A WHITE SMOKE SIGNAL FROM THE TOP OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. IF NOT, SEND A RED ONE...

IF OUR OFFER IS REJECTED, WE WILL DO AS WE SEE FIT... KEEP THIS IN MIND...

WITH THAT, I SHALL LEAVE YOU...

SHWWOOP

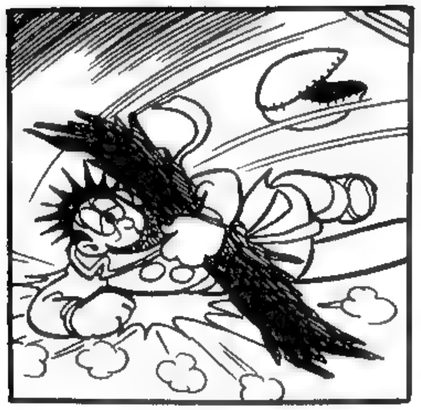
OH MY GOSH!

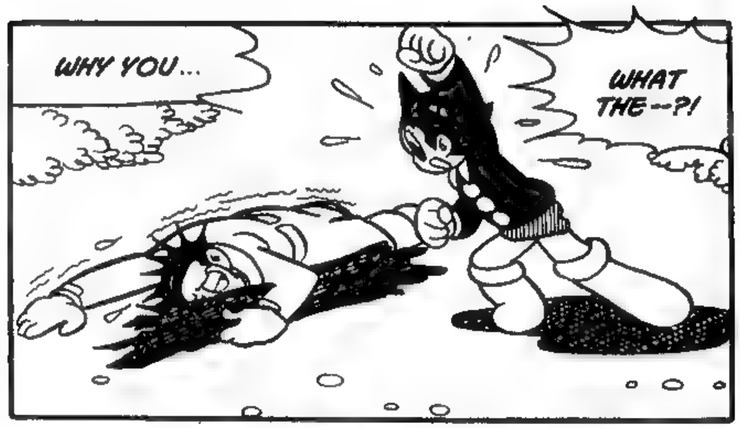
KERSMASH

EGADS!!

STOP !!

POW



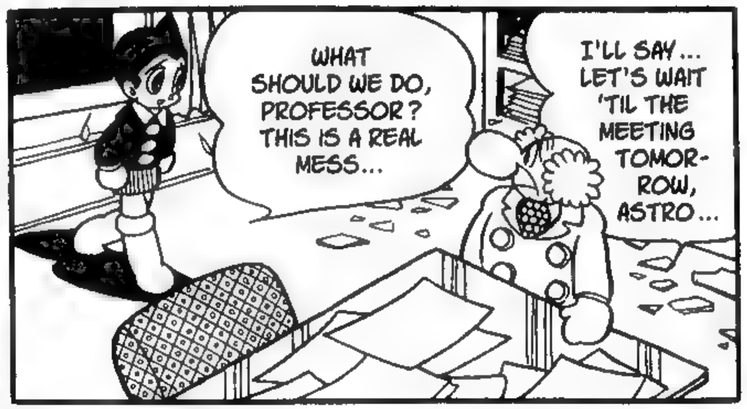

WHY YOU...
WHAT THE--?!

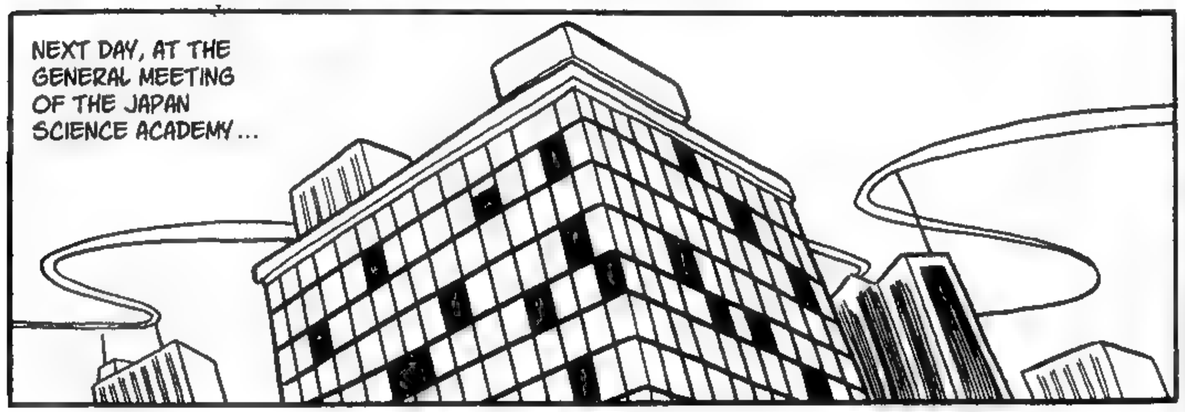
IT'S KYU-TARO'S DAD!

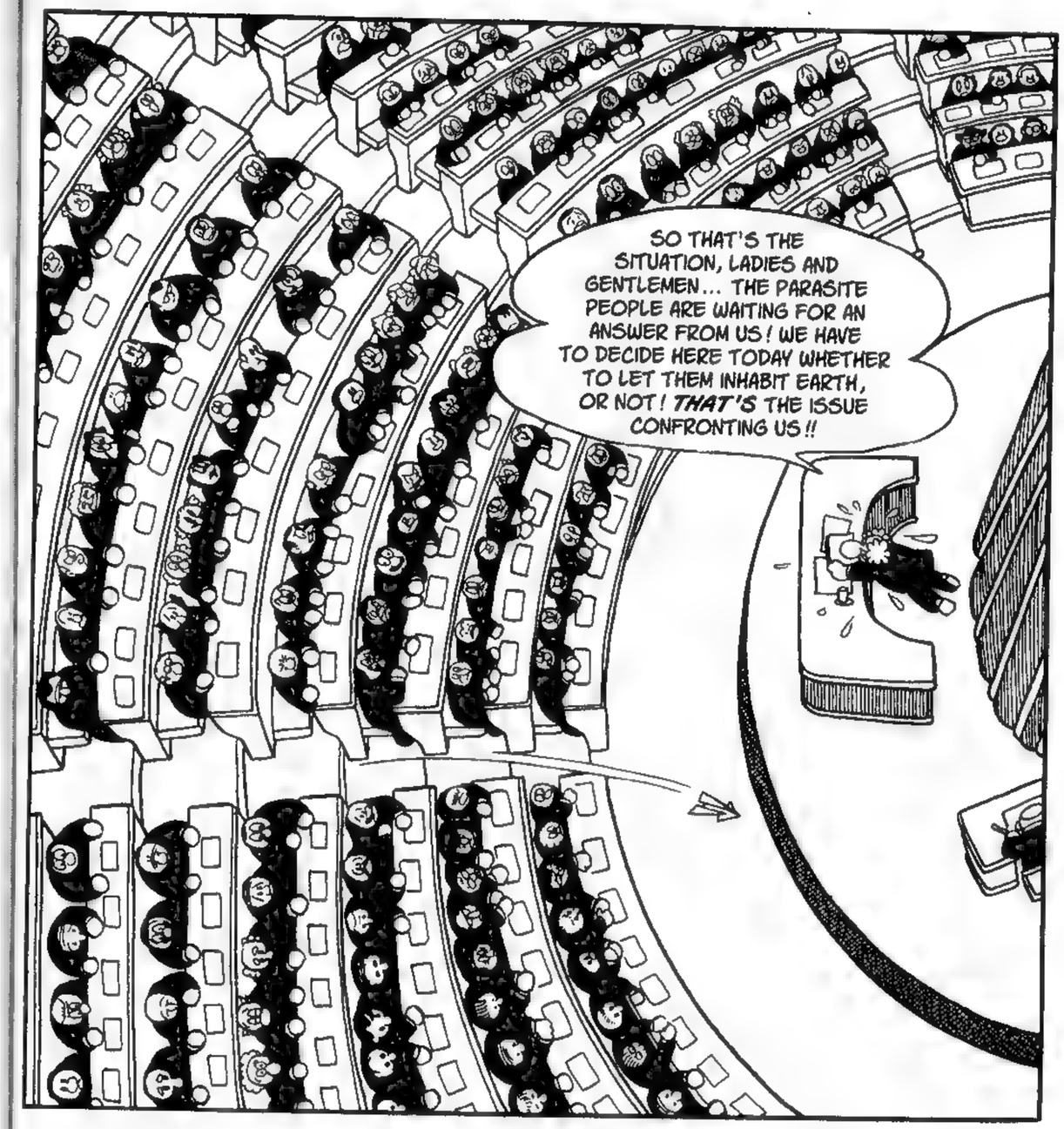
HE CAN'T BE HUMAN... BUT HE MUST BE...

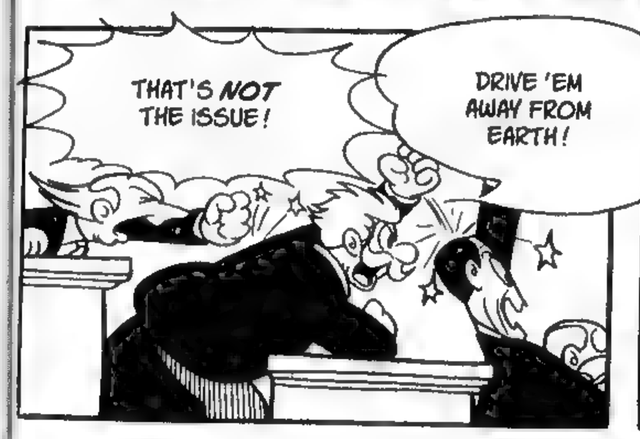
.....

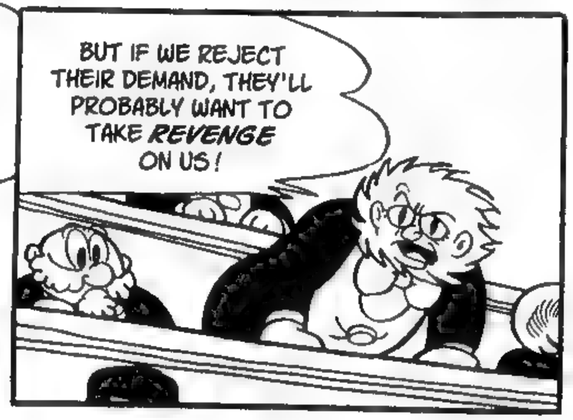
KYUTARO'S DAD ISN'T REALLY A BAD PERSON... THE POOR MAN'S JUST BEEN TAKEN OVER BY PARASITES...


WHAT SHOULD WE DO, PROFESSOR? THIS IS A REAL MESS...
I'LL SAY... LET'S WAIT 'TIL THE MEETING TOMOR-ROW, ASTRO...


NEXT DAY, AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE JAPAN SCIENCE ACADEMY...


SO THAT'S THE SITUATION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THE PARASITE PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR AN ANSWER FROM US! WE HAVE TO DECIDE HERE TODAY WHETHER TO LET THEM INHABIT EARTH, OR NOT! THAT'S THE ISSUE CONFRONTING US!!


THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!
DRIVE 'EM AWAY FROM EARTH!


BUT IF WE REJECT THEIR DEMAND, THEY'LL PROBABLY WANT TO TAKE REVENGE ON US!

DON'T STATE THE OBVIOUS!

'NYEAH!

LET'S *FIGHT* 'EM!

BRING OUT THE NATIONAL SELF-DEFENSE FORCES!

WELL THEN, GENTLEMEN... I GUESS... ≠GULP≠... THAT WE'VE DECIDED TO SAY *NO!*

VOOSH

HERE WE GO...

RED SMOKE, EH?

THE PARASITES'LL SEE THIS...

...AND THEN HEAVEN HELP US...

INSPECTOR TAWASHI... WE'LL LEAVE THE SECURITY UP TO YOU FOLKS...

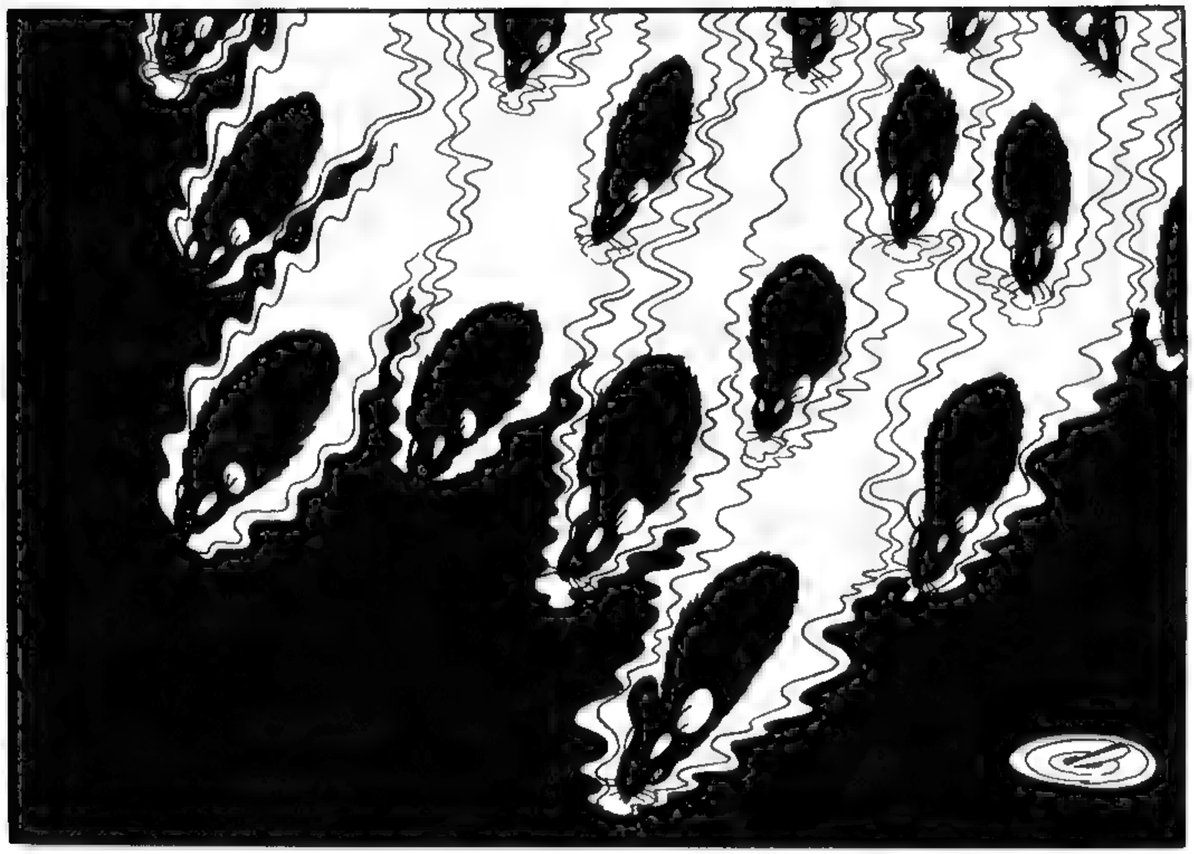
UNDER-STOOD...

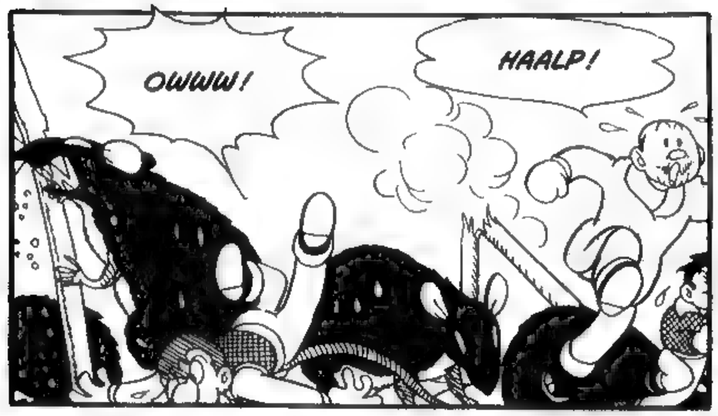
≠PSST≠... THE PROFESSOR REJECTED OUR OFFER. GO GET 'EM!

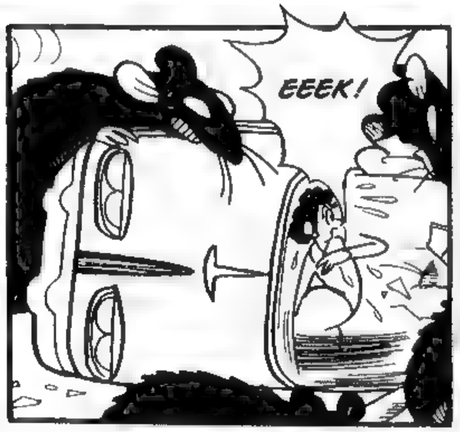
SPLISH SPLASH

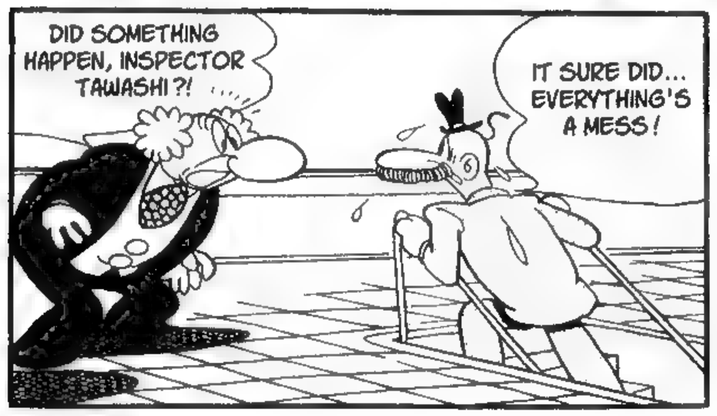
YIKES!! GIANT RATS!

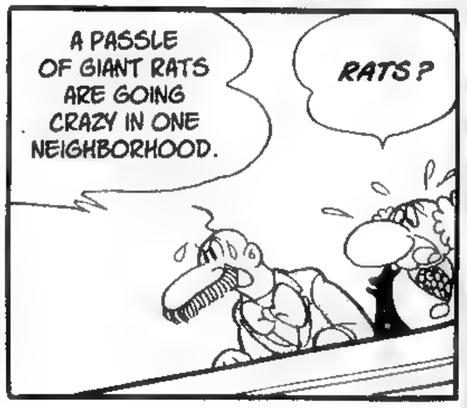
VOOSH

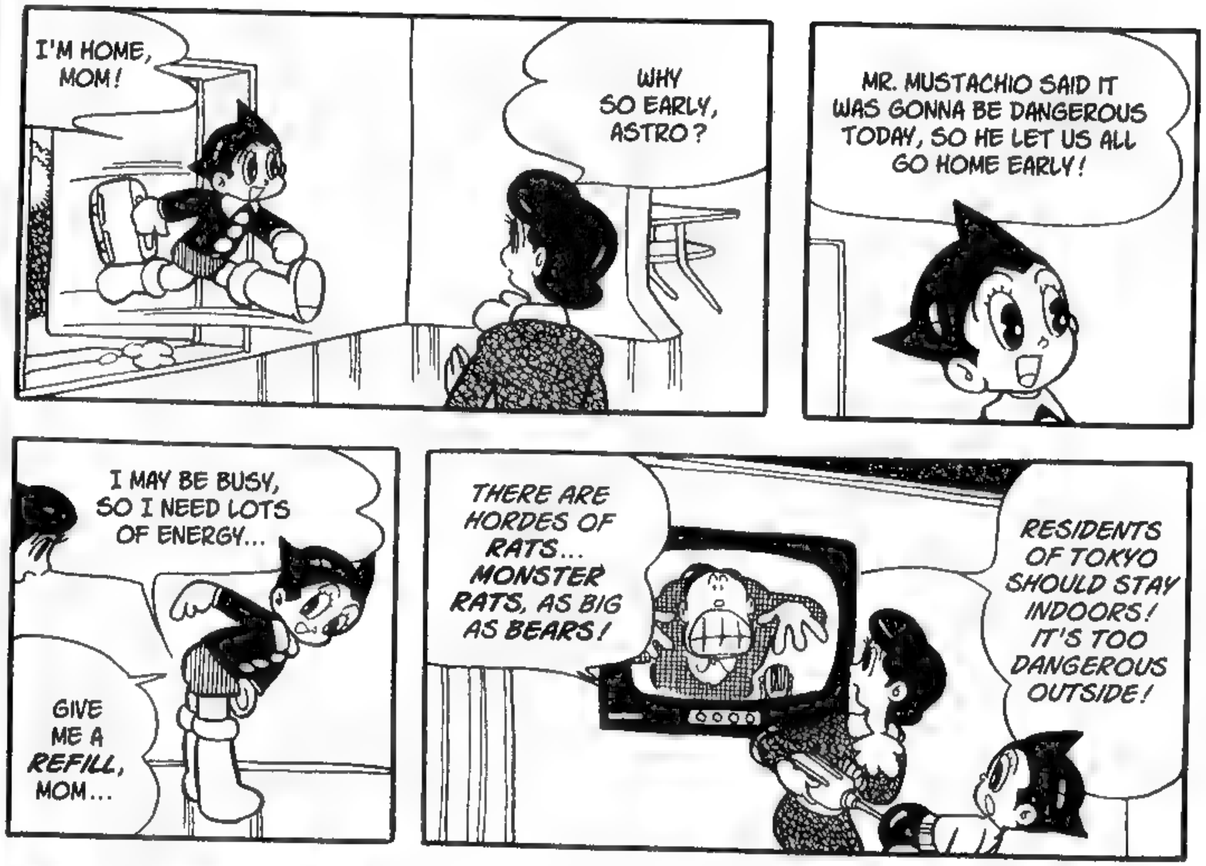


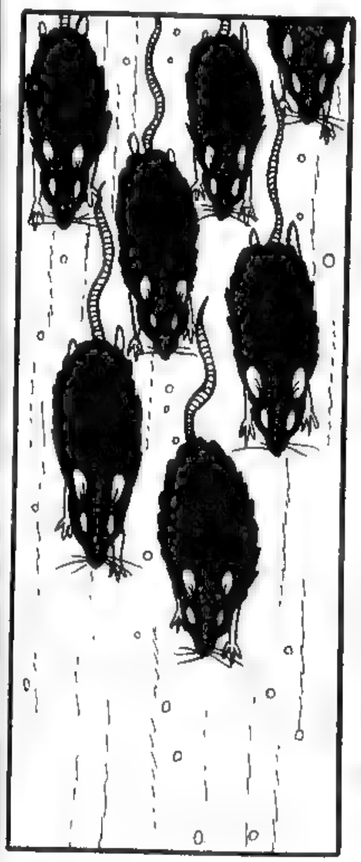

OWWW!
HAALP!

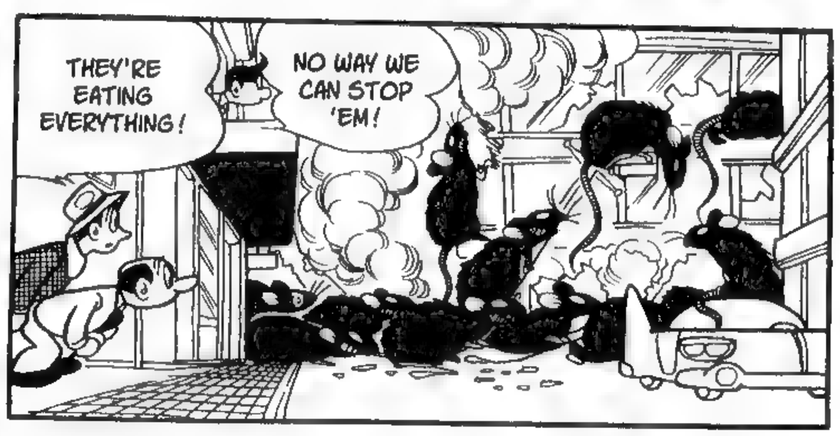

EEEK!

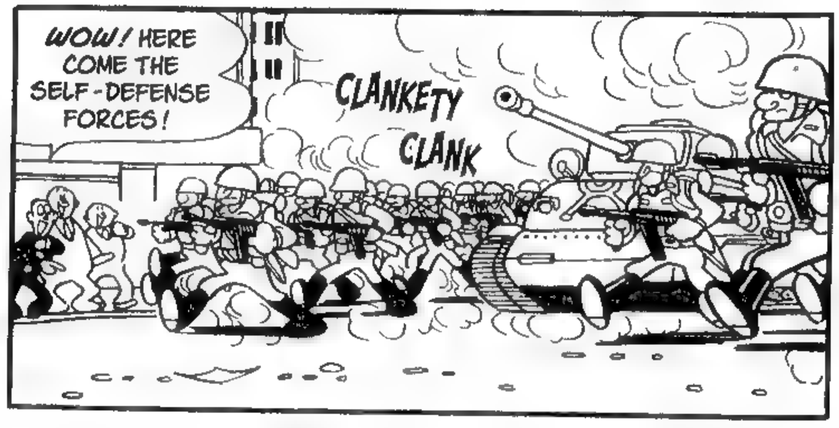

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, INSPECTOR TAWASHI?!
IT SURE DID... EVERYTHING'S A MESS!

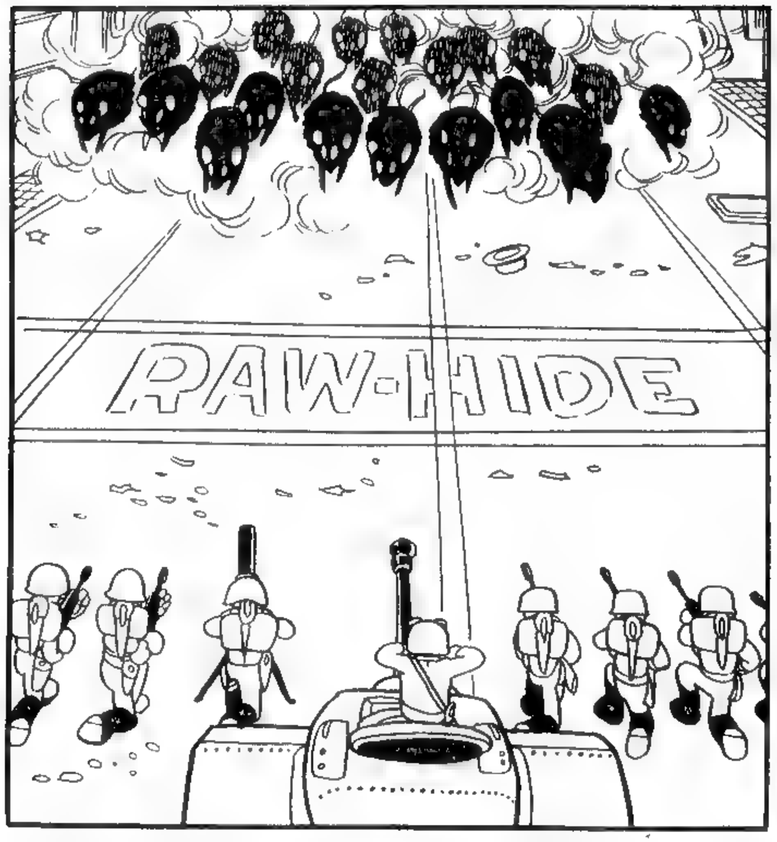

A PASSLE OF GIANT RATS ARE GOING CRAZY IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD.
RATS?

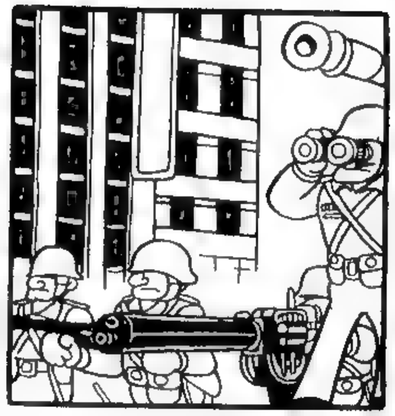

I'M HOME, MOM!
WHY SO EARLY, ASTRO?
MR. MUSTACHIO SAID IT WAS GONNA BE DANGEROUS TODAY, SO HE LET US ALL GO HOME EARLY!
I MAY BE BUSY, SO I NEED LOTS OF ENERGY...
GIVE ME A REFILL, MOM...
THERE ARE HORDES OF RATS... MONSTER RATS, AS BIG AS BEARS!
RESIDENTS OF TOKYO SHOULD STAY INDOORS! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS OUTSIDE!

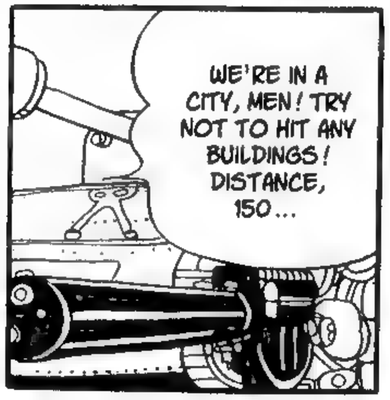


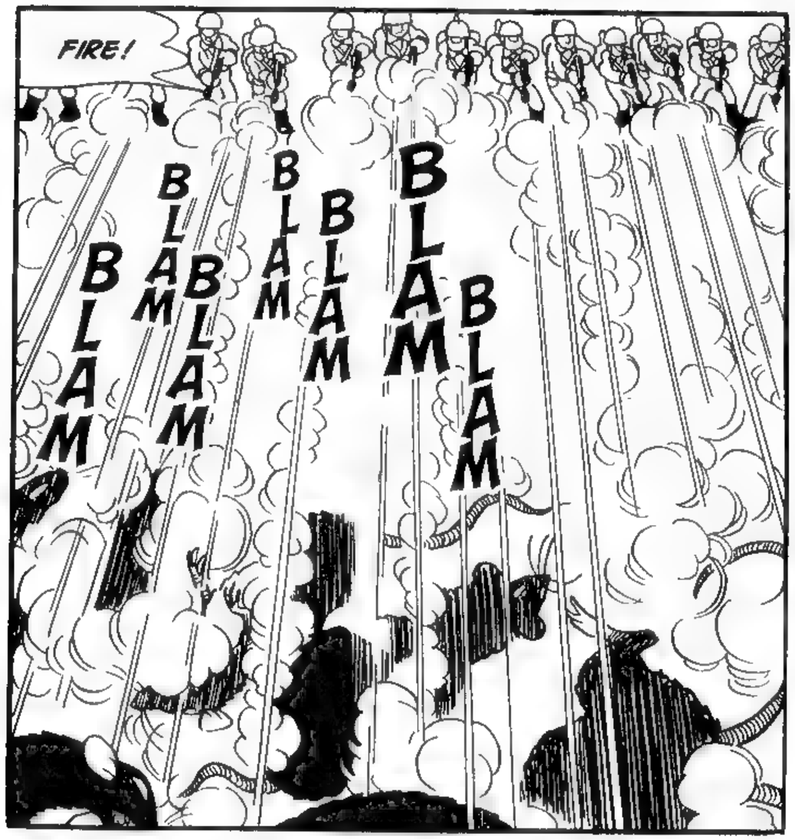

THEY'RE EATING EVERYTHING!
NO WAY WE CAN STOP 'EM!


WOW! HERE COME THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES!
CLANKETY CLANK

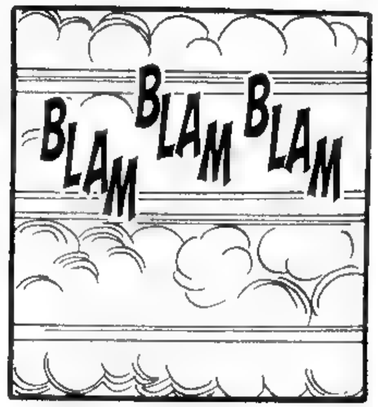

RAW-HIDE



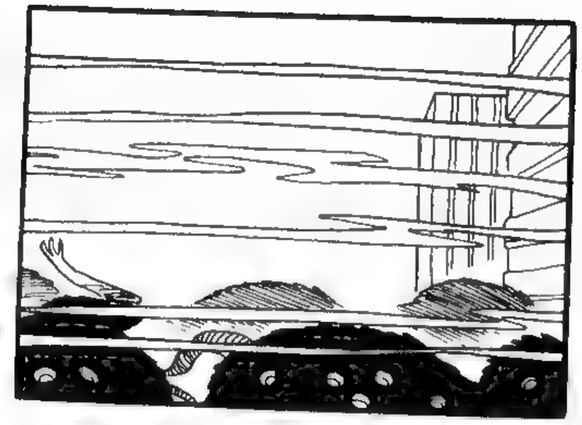

WE'RE IN A CITY, MEN! TRY NOT TO HIT ANY BUILDINGS! DISTANCE, 150...

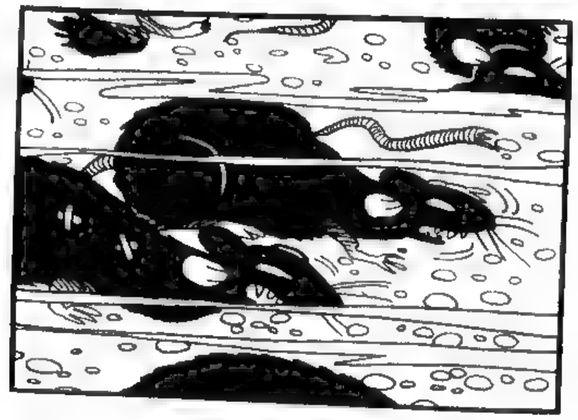

FIRE!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

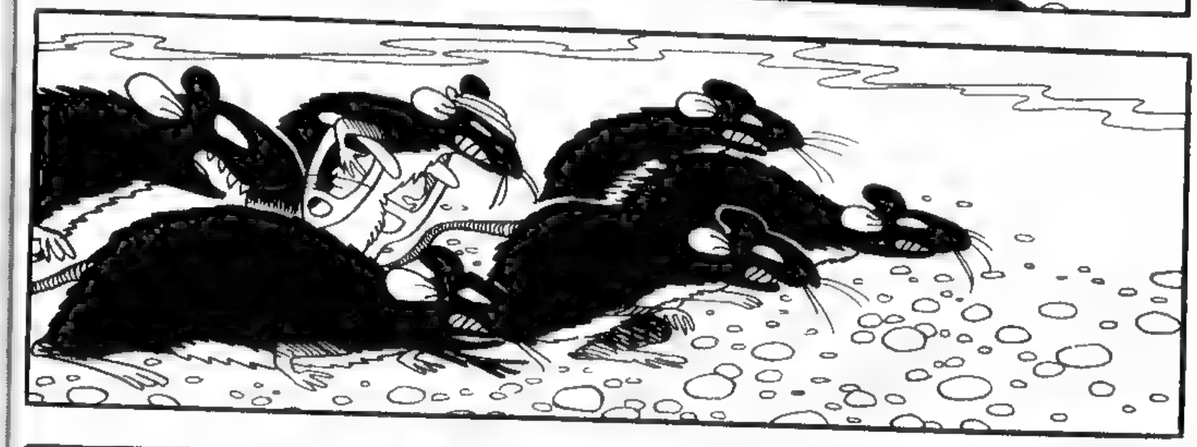
RATATATTAT

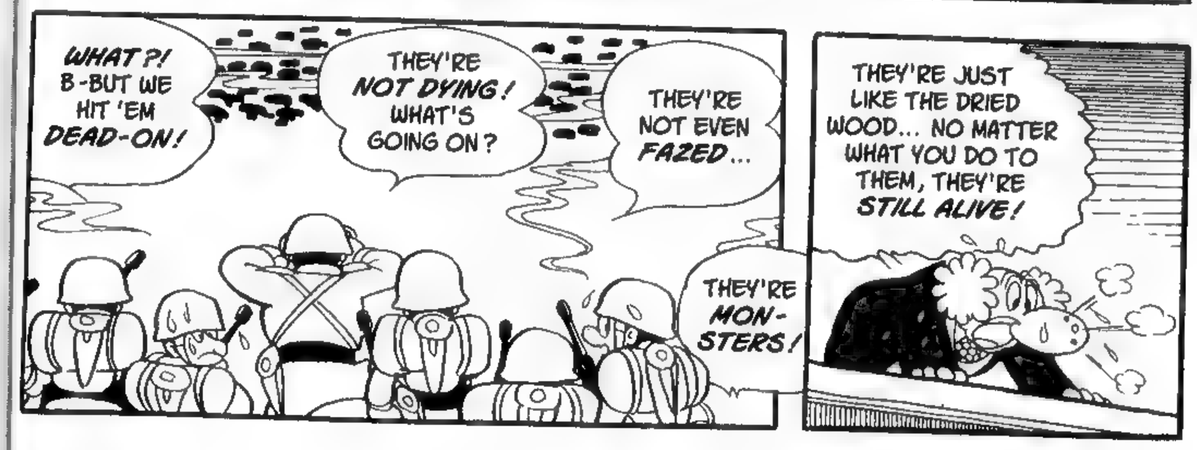

BLAM BLAM BLAM

KABOOM
CRASH








WHAT?! B-BUT WE HIT 'EM DEAD-ON!
THEY'RE NOT DYING! WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE NOT EVEN FAZED...
THEY'RE MON-STERS!
THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE DRIED WOOD... NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO THEM, THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT WEIRD GUY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT WHEN RATS ARE NO LONGER RATS... THESE AREN'T EARTH ANIMALS ANYMORE. THEY'RE JUST HOSTS FOR *PARASITES!!*

YOU'RE ONLY WASTING YOUR BULLETS ON THEM, MEN! YOU COULD GRIND THEM INTO A POWDER, AND *STILL* NOT BE ABLE TO KILL THEM!

WHA P!

WE'VE GOT TO SEND *ROBOT TROOPS* IN AFTER THEM...

BUT EVEN ROBOTS CAN'T KILL THEM, RIGHT?

RIGHT! SO WE CATCH THE RATS, CRAM 'EM INTO A SPACE SHIP, AND SEND 'EM INTO *OUTER SPACE!*

NOW YOU'RE TALKING, PROFESSOR!

WE NEED THE ROBOT TROOP UNIT HERE RIGHT AWAY!

ROGER! WE'LL BE THERE!

SHOONK SHOONK SHOONK

SHOONK SHOONK SHOONK

SCREE SCREE

GAGA

SCREE SCREE

GAGA

YAY! WE DID FINALLY DID IT!

IT *WORK-ED!*

HOORAY!

WAIT, IT'S A *FLYING SAUCER!*

NO *KIDD-ING!*

FLASH

FWS SSSHHT

SWISSSH

FLASH

FSSSST

FLASH

FSSSST

THE ROBOT UNIT'S *MELTING!*

GRRR! WHAT THE HECK'S GOING *ON?!*

SORRY, SIR...

HEY, *LOOK!* *ASTRO* JUST TOOK OFF!

BE CAREFUL, ASTRO! IT'S *DANGEROUS!*

THEY MIGHT MELT YOU, TOO, ASTRO!

FLASH

FLASH

VOOSH

SNAP

SNAP

IT'S NO USE!!!

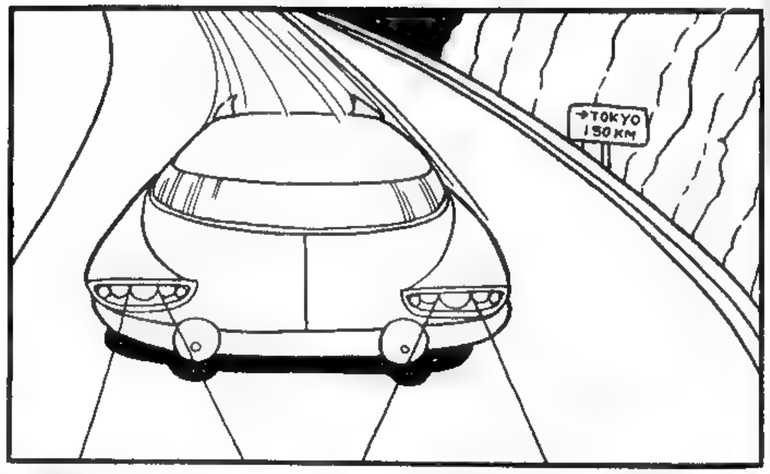
THIS SAUCER'S PROB'LY FILLED WITH *PARASITES!*

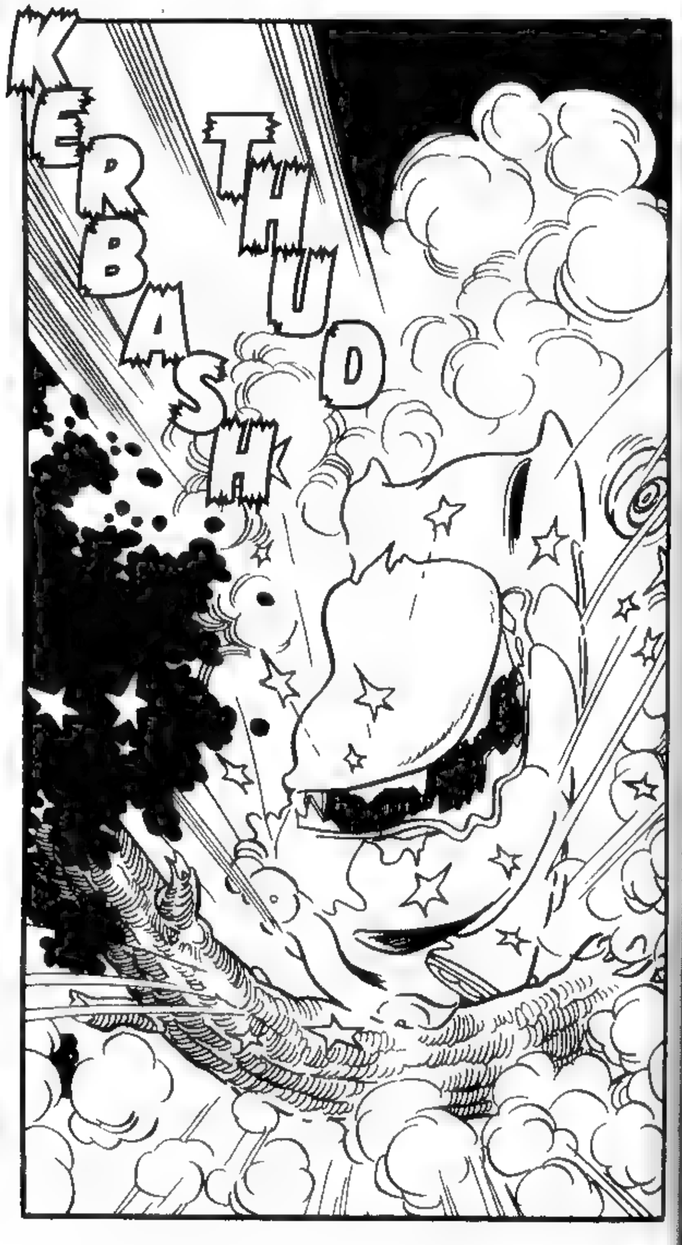
IF I REALLY SMASHED THAT SAUCER, *TOKYO* WOULD BE FILLED WITH PARASITES!

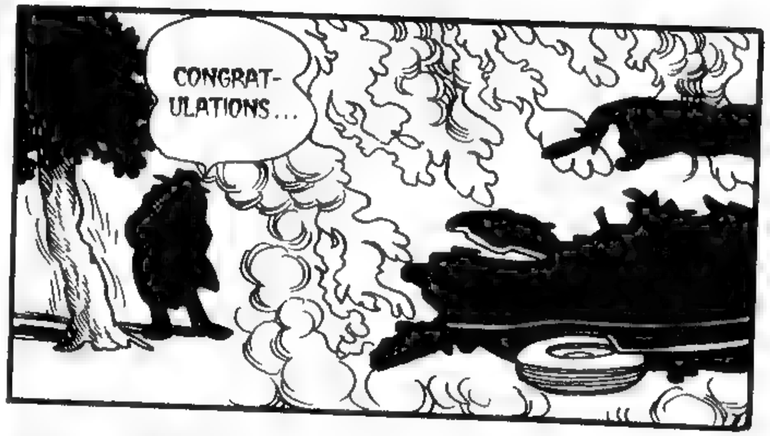
TOO BAD...

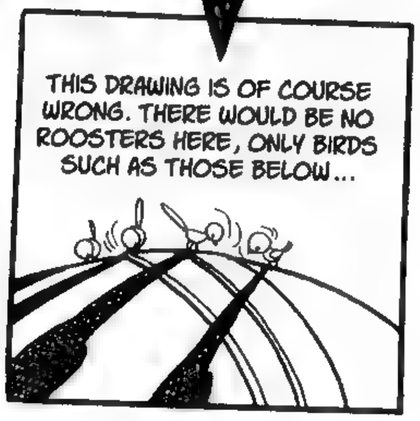
...BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO LET IT GO...

ONE WEEK AFTER THE RAT INCIDENT WAS RESOLVED, A STRANGE QUIET FELL OVER THE CITY... BUT DURING THAT TIME, THE PARASITES KEPT PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER EARTH...









SLAM

PRO-FESSOR AKIBA!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO TOKYO, SIR...

WHAT?!

≠HMPH!≠ WELL, I CAME BACK!!

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BIG MEETING TODAY, TO DECIDE HOW TO REPEL THE SPACE PARASITES!?

SHADDUP!!

I DON'T FEEL WELL!!

RRINGG

WHAT?! HE CAN'T COME TO THE MEETING?! BUT WE NEED HIM HERE NOW MORE THAN EVER!

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO MAKE HIM COME?

YES... ER, UM, WELL, THE PRO-FESSOR'S NOT FEELING WELL...

SCIENTISTS'VE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO HEAR PROFESSOR AKIBA'S PRESENTATION!

I KNOW, BUT THE PROFESSOR'S SICK, AND HE CAN'T TALK NOW...

CAN'T TALK, EH? ≠HMPH≠... THEN IT IS HOPELESS...

I'M SORRY, GENTLE-MEN...

BUT IF HE CAN'T TALK, HE CAN'T TALK...

WE'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM HERE, ASTRO... PROFESSOR AKIBA HAD SAID THAT WITH HIS TELESCOPE, HE HAD SPOTTED A GROUP OF ROCKETS CARRYING THE PARASITES, COMING FROM OUTER SPACE! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE A REPORT ON HIS OBSERVATIONS AT THE MEETING TODAY...

"HE APPARENTLY HAD CACULATED WHERE THE ROCKETS WERE COMING FROM AND WHEN THEY WOULD LAND ON EARTH..."

GOSH, PROFESSOR, THAT'S SOMETHING EVERYONE AT THE MEETING SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

I KNOW... AND UNLESS PEOPLE *SEE* HIS DATA, THEY WON'T *BELIEVE* IT...

I'LL GO TO HIS OBSER-VATORY AND BRING THE DATA *HERE!*

VOOOSH

THANKS, ASTRO! YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY, THOUGH!

UH OH... THAT'S ASTRO BOY... THE ROBOT...

HE'S GOING TO AKIBA'S OBSERVA-TORY?

HE'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY OF OUR PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD...

AND SINCE HE'S A ROBOT, WE CAN'T TAKE HIM OVER, EITHER...

PROFESSOR AKIBA? ASTRO BOY IS ON HIS WAY THERE NOW...

ASTRO BOY? WHO'S HE?

√345678

CAN DO ANY CALCULATION IN A SECOND

SPEAKS SIXTY-SIX LANGUAGES

HE'S GOT SEVEN SPECIAL POWERS AND HE'S THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT ON *EARTH!*

EYES FUNCTION AS SEARCHLIGHTS

FLIES THROUGH THE AIR

HAS SUPER HEARING

CAN TELL IF PEOPLE ARE GOOD OR BAD

HAS 100,000 HORSEPOWER

WELL, WHAT'S HIS *WEAKNESS?* HE'S GOT TO HAVE ONE!

HEH HEH... I'LL TEACH HIM A LESSON IF HE COMES HERE...

PROFESSOR! STOP!! THAT'S A REFLECTING MIRROR, DESIGNED TO READ THE STELLAR SPECTRUM.

IF YOU USE THAT IN THE DAYTIME, IT'LL REFLECT THE HEAT OF THE SUN AND CAUSE A *FIRE*, PROFESSOR!

HELLO? OPERATOR? GET ME 911!

PUT THE PHONE DOWN...

P-*PRO-FES-SOR!*

I'M NO LONGER YOUR PROFESSOR...

HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE, AND WHEN HE SEES YOU AND HEADS TOWARD YOU, I'LL BE AIMING FOR HIM FROM THE TOP OF THE OBSERVATORY! GREAT IDEA, *NO?!*

PROFESSOR AKIBA DIED IN A CAR CRASH LAST NIGHT. I'M JUST INHABITING HIS BODY, AND I CAME FROM *OUTER SPACE!*

... AND NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU, I CAN'T LET YOU STAY ALIVE...

...SO I'LL USE YOU AS *BAIT* FOR ASTRO BOY...

THAT MUST BE PROFES-SOR AKIBA'S OBSERVA-TORY...

UH OH...

THERE'S A *HUMAN* THERE...

... AND HE'S *TIED* UP!

}UGH{ }AGH{ }ARGH!{

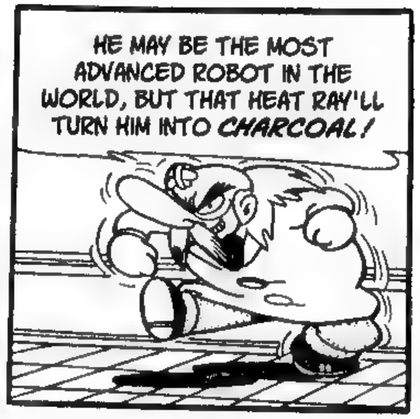
WHAT HAPPENED ?!!

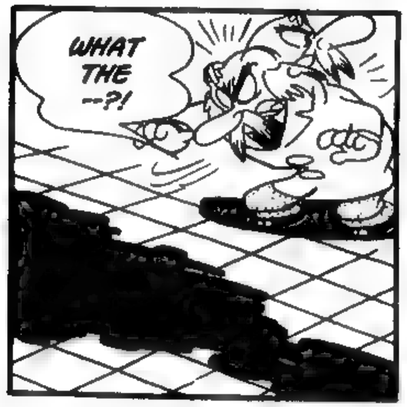
IT *WORKED!* HERE WE GO!

FLASH

WHERE'S THAT *HEAT* COMING FROM?!

IT WORKED!!
HEE HEE HEE!

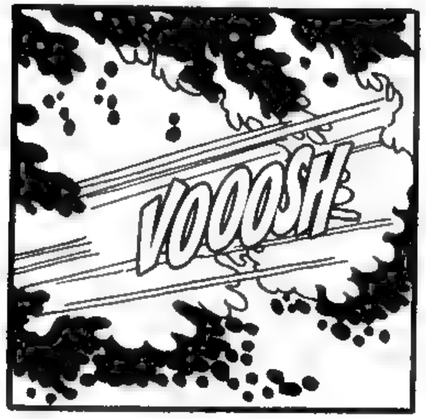

HE MAY BE THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT IN THE WORLD, BUT THAT HEAT RAY'LL TURN HIM INTO CHARCOAL!

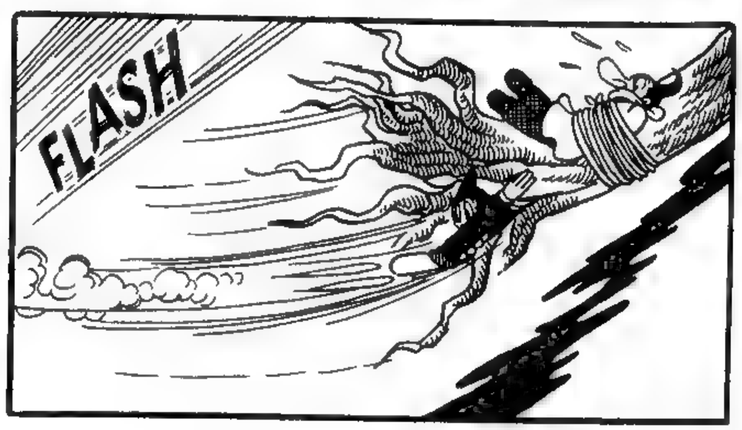

WHAT THE --?!

UH OH...

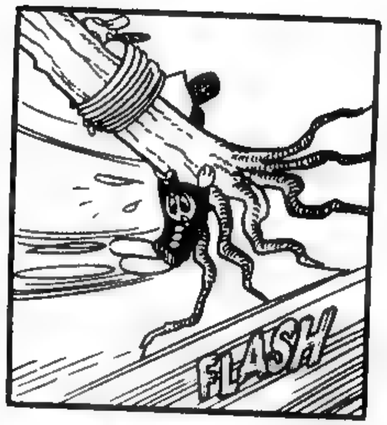
BLAST IT!!

ONE MORE TIME, THEN ...
FLASH

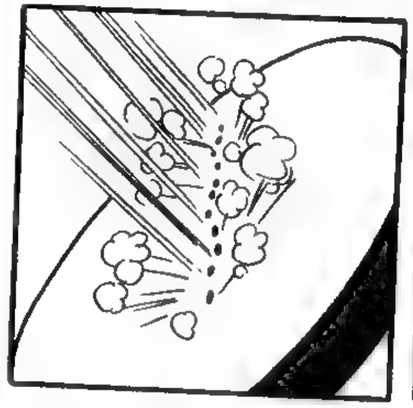

VOOOSH


FLASH

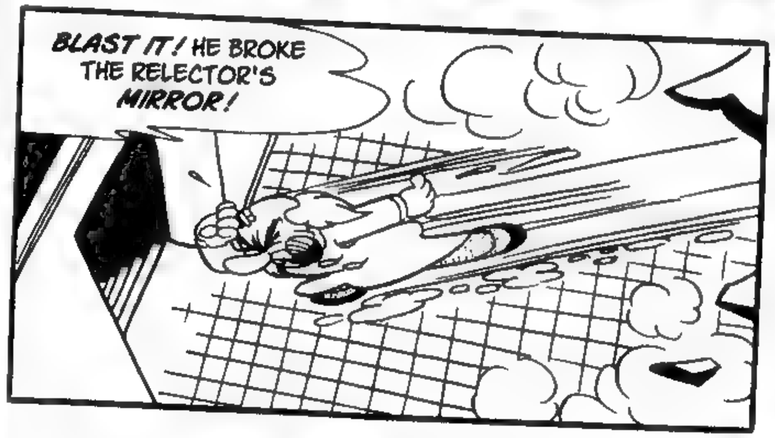
FLASH

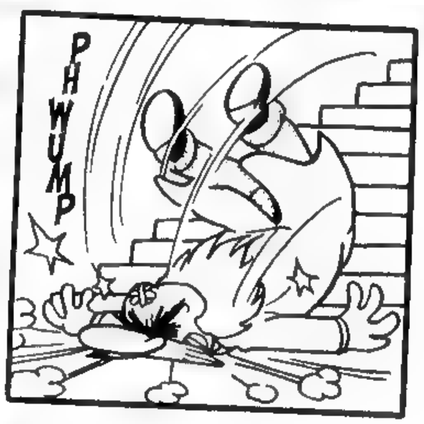

FLASH!

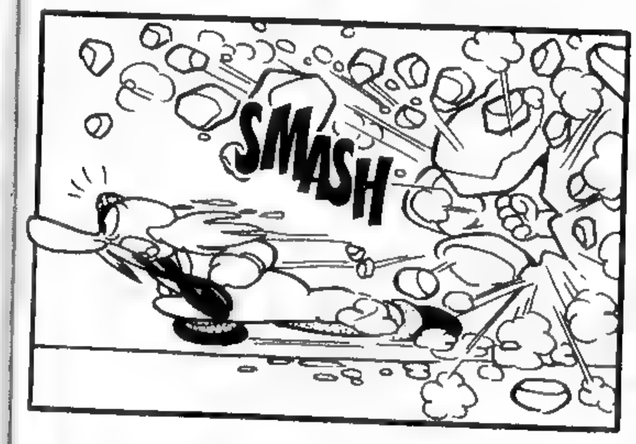
RAT AT AT



CRACK


BLAST IT! HE BROKE THE RELECTOR'S MIRROR!


PHWUMP


SMASH

THIS IS THE MOST POWERFUL ROBOT I'VE EVER SEEN! I'D BETTER HIDE IN HERE!

THAT'S ODD... I'VE SEARCHED THE WHOLE OBSERVATORY AND *STILL* CAN'T FIND THE PROFESSOR... WONDER IF HE ESCAPED OUTSIDE...

YOU WERE HIS ASSISTANT, RIGHT? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TOLD ME TO COME HERE AND GET HIS REPORT ON SPOTTING THE SPACE PARASITES' ROCKET SHIPS...

THE PROFESSOR TURNED *WEIRD* ALL OF A SUDDEN... HE HAD SAID HE GOING TO THE CONFERENCE, AND SEEMED REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT...

BUT THEN HE SAID THAT HE WAS A *PARASITE* FROM OUTER SPACE, AND THAT HE WASN'T PROFESSOR AKIBA ANYMORE...

THE REPORT'S IN HERE...

I'M SURE THAT'S IT...

THANKS! I'LL TAKE IT TO THE CONFERENCE!

HMM. WONDER WHERE THE PROFESSOR WENT?

YIKES!

P- *PROFES-SOR!!*

ARGH!

CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME...

THIS'LL MAKE YOU MY *ALLY*...

...*HMM*...

ASTRO !!

I GAVE YOU THE WRONG REPORT! HERE, THIS IS THE RIGHT ONE...

THANKS FOR BRINGING IT TO ME!

WELCOME BACK, ASTRO! GOT THE REPORT?

HERE IT IS!

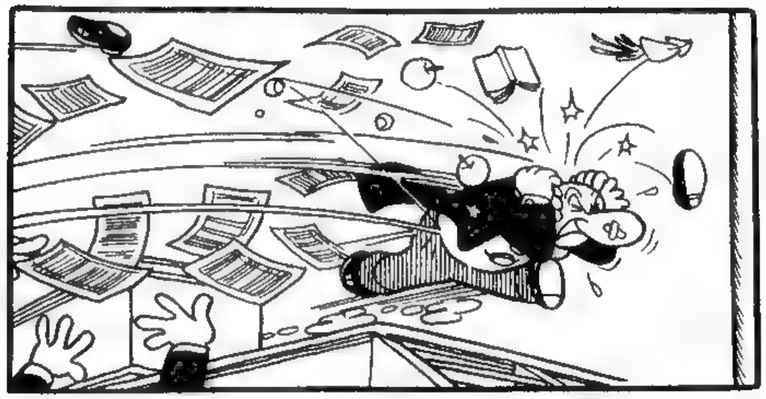
GOOD WORK, ASTRO! I'LL READ THIS AT THE CONFERENCE!

I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT PAPER TO DELIVER!

LESSEE... MARCH 7, 30 YEN FOR KITSUNE UDON NOODLES, 100 YEN FOR A CHICKEN RICE BOWL...

MARCH 8, 20 YEN FOR TISSUES, 58 YEN FOR SWEETBEAN CAKES, 100 YEN FOR SOCKS, 43 YEN FOR THE TRAIN FARE, 100 YEN FOR SUSHI, AND 15 YEN FOR SEPTIC TANK CLEANING...

WHAT THE--?!!



ASTRO... YOU DIDN'T BRING BACK A *REPORT*... THAT WAS A LIST OF *EXPENSES!*

HMM... THAT'S STRANGE... I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE I WAS GIVEN A SECOND REPORT...

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR... I'M A ROBOT! I READ THE FIRST REPORT, AND *MEMORIZED* IT ALL!

YOU REALLY REMEMBER IT *ALL?*

SURE, I CAN RECITE THE WHOLE THING...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST A ROBOT'S MEMORY!?

OF COURSE!

WE BELIEVE!

WELL, LISTEN TO ASTRO, THEN... ASTRO READ PROFESSOR AKIBA'S REPORT AND CAN RECITE IT *ALL!*

"MARCH 8 -- DISCOVERED A STRANGE FORMATION OF SPACE SHIPS NEAR THE NORTH STAR. APPEARS TO BE APPROACHING EARTH..."

THAT'S *TOMORROW!*

"IT SHOULD ENTER THE EARTH'S STRATOSPHERE ON THE 9TH, PROBABLY NEAR THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES..."

HURRY! WE'LL BE *LATE!*

THE SPACE PARASITES'LL BE LANDING HERE *ANY MINUTE!*

DOESN'T IT SEEM A LITTLE WIERD? THAT THEY'D INFILTRATE THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YES...

WHY WOULD THEY HAVE TO LAND AT THE POLES?

IF THEY HAVE TO ENTER EARTH THROUGH THE COLDEST SPOTS...

... IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WOULDN'T EVEN NEED TO COME TO EARTH...

IT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE!!*

I AGREE... I THINK YOU'RE ONTO SOMETHING, MR. MUSTACHIO...

WE'D BETTER DO AN INVESTIGATION...

WOW... LOOK! THEY'RE ALL *REFUGEES!*

IT'S A *RIOT!*

WE CAN'T GET THROUGH HERE!

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE START TO *PANIC!*

HEY! THESE GUYS ARE *SCIENTISTS!*

YEAH! THAT'S *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!*

THEY'RE THE ONES SCREWING UP! WE'LL LOSE TO THE SPACE PEOPLE 'CUZ OF *THEM!*

LET 'EM HAVE IT!

PULL 'EM OUT OF THE CAR!

HALP!

STOP!! WE'VE GOTTA USE OUR *HEADS*, PEOPLE!

SHADDUP, POPS!

WHO'RE YOU CALLING *POPS?* TAKE *THIS*, IDIOTS!

KRAK

BONK

DEY GOT ME...

TRAMP TRAMP

OWW! *OWW!* DON'T STEP ON ME! *HALP!*

UNGH...

MR. MUSTACHIO!!

WHAT'VE THEY DONE TO YOU?!

AH... ASTRO... IF ONLY YOU'D COME THREE MINUTES 'N TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS EARLIER...

THE CAR'S BURNING, AND THE PROFESSORS ARE GONE...

TEACHER, I DISCOVERED SOMETHING REALLY *IMPORTANT*...

?

THERE ARE PARASITE *SPIES* AMONG THE SCIENTISTS...

THERE *ARE* P!!

YEAH, I FOLLOWED THEM TO PROFESSOR AKIBA'S OBSERVATORY...

TAKE ME TO THEM, ASTRO...

HERE WE GO...

TWO OF THEM WERE GETTING READY TO GO WITH PROFESSOR AKIBA TO MEET THE FLYING SAUCERS...

≠ARGHGRRR!≠

I WANTED TO GET 'EM MYSELF, BUT WE ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO HURT HUMANS!

HERE WE ARE...

L-LOO-LOOK INSIDE THE OBSERVATORY, ASTRO!

IT'S A *FLYING SAUCER!!*

I BET THEY'RE GONNA USE IT TO LEAD THE OTHERS HERE!

LET'S TRY TO GET CLOSER...

OUCH!! *TOO* CLOSE ...

WHAT'S TAKING AKIBA SO LONG?

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LEAVE...

WE'VE GOTTA WORRY 'BOUT THE VAN ALLEN RADIATION BELT...

I'LL SAY... NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... *YUP YUP*...

IF WE CAN'T LEAD THE OTHERS HERE...

THEY'LL ENTER THE VAN ALLEN BELT...

QUITE RIGHT...

WHAT'S THE VAN ALLEN BELT, TEACHER?

IT'S A BAND OF RADIATION THAT CIRCLES THE EARTH, ASTRO... THAT'S ABOUT AS MUCH AS I KNOW...

IT'S APPARENTLY SHAPED LIKE A DONUT...

WAIT A MINUTE! I GET IT!!

I SOLVED THE *MYSTERY* !!

HOW ?!

THE SPACE PARASITES'LL INVADE EARTH FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES...

...AND I JUST FIGURED OUT *WHY*...

IT'S BECAUSE THE VAN ALLEN BELT DOESN'T COVER THE *POLES!*

SO THERE'S A WAY TO DESTROY THEM?

RIGHT! THEY'RE PROBABLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO *RADIATION!* THAT'S WHY THEY WANT TO INFILTRATE THROUGH VIA THE POLES!!

SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS *TRICK* 'EM INTO ENTERING THE VAN ALLEN BELT!

LET'S HIDE INSIDE THE SAUCER, ASTRO!

GOTCHA, TEACHER!

HERE'S THE ENTRANCE HATCH...

YOU'D BETTER HIDE HERE, TEACHER ...

THE PROFESSORS ARE COMING ...

CLACK CLACK

CLACK

TIME TO *TAKE OFF!!*

CHAK CHAK CHAK

FWIP

VOOOSH

THIS THING'S *AMAZING*... NO SOUND, NO SHAKING, AND NO SENSE OF ACCELERATING ...

WE TOOK OFF ALMOST *IMMEDIATELY* ...

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, PROFESSOR AKIBA...?

HMPH... WE'RE ALMOST AT THE NORTH POLE...

HERE WE ARE... WE CAN REACH SPACE FROM HERE...

NO VAN ALLEN RADIATION BELT HERE, THANK HEAVENS...

THERE THEY ARE! OUR *PALS!!*

THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR US!

WELCOME TO EARTH, COMRADES! WE HAVE COME TO GREET YOU...

THANK YOU FOR MEETING US. LEAD US IN...

WE'RE GONNA BE DOING THE LEADING, PAL...

JUST PILOT THIS THING ALONG THE COURSE WE TELL YOU TO TAKE!

HUMAN VERMIN! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!

SLAM

I'M SORRY, TEACHER, I LOST CONTROL...

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO! NO PROBLEM!

OKAY, LONG NOSE... NOW DO AS I SAY...

LEAD EVERYONE INTO THE VAN ALLEN BELT!

B-BUT THEN WE'LL ALL DIE!!

THAT'S THE IDEA!

WE'RE GONNA WIPE YOU ALL OUT WITH RADIATION!

ARGH!... HALLP...

WE... WE'RE DYING...

GUESS WE'VE FINALLY ENTERED THE VAN ALLEN BELT!

IT'S DEATH THROES FOR THE ALIENS...

TEACHER... LOOK...

THE FLYING SAUCERS ARE ALL GETTING WOBBLY...

ALL THE SPACE PARASITES INSIDE ARE DYING! WE WON!!

BANZAI! MANKIND WON, AND THE BAD SPACE PARASITES ALL LOST! HOORAY!

SO THAT'S HOW THE EARTH WAS SAVED. FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS MANY FALLING STARS COULD BE SEEN IN THE NIGHT SKY, BUT THEY WERE REALLY THE REMNANTS OF THE FLYING SAUCERS, BURNING UP AS SOON AS THEY ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE...

THE END